

THE ATHENÆUM.

No. 23. NOVEMBER 1st, 1808.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.

For the Athenæum.

REMARKS ON HISTORICAL RELATIONS OF POISONINGS.

(Continued.)

I NOW proceed to the consideration of particular instances in which historians have imputed the deaths of distinguished persons to poison.

GERMANICUS CÆSAR, the nephew and adopted son of the emperor Tiberius, is by some writers positively asserted to have been poisoned by Piso, prefect of Syria, at the instigation of Tiberius. Suetonius and Tacitus relate the circumstances of his death, and both mention the suspicion of poison, the former seeming to give credit to it, the latter not. From their accounts, particularly that of Tacitus, which is the fullest, it appears, that Germanicus, being sent by his uncle to command in the east, was followed by Piso, a man of a violent temper, and hostile to the young prince; and there is good reason to suppose that Tiberius, in conformity with the maxims of his dark and crafty policy, had purposely chosen a person of that character to check and controul his too popular nephew. Germanicus, after visiting various countries, returning from Egypt to Antioch, fell sick there, and lingering some time between apparent amendment and relapse, at length died. As he was the great favourite of the Roman people, his death excited universal commiseration, which his friends took every means to augment; and suspicions of foul practices were soon raised against Piso, which were at length brought to judicial examination before the senate. The emperor seems to have acted with great fairness and propriety on the occasion, suffering the accusation to take its free course, yet endeavouring to moderate the violence and prejudice of the public mind. The charges against Piso were various; but that respecting the poison was supported by the following evidence alone. The act was asserted to have been committed at a banquet, given by

Germanicus himself, in which Piso sat next to him, who was imagined to have poisoned his food by touching it with infected hands—a supposition than which one more improbable and even absurd has scarcely ever been made in a similar case! The dead body, when exposed on the forum of Antioch, is said by Suetonius to have exhibited livid spots, with foam at the mouth; and a very extraordinary circumstance is related, namely, that the heart remained unconsumed on the funeral pyre; a fact which the philosophy of the day regarded as decisive of poison; though, indeed, Pliny asserts it also to occur in those who died of the *morbus cardiacus*. It is further asserted, that a famous female poisoner, an intimate of Plancina, the wife of Piso, on being sent for from the province to Rome, died suddenly at Brundisium, and that poison was found tied up in a knot of her hair. As no signs of violent death were discovered in her body, it seems to have been imagined that the power of the poison penetrated through her skull into her brain. Such weak and ridiculous arguments are surely more calculated to excite disbelief than conviction.

One thing which appeared on the trial, though a proof of the bad intentions of the enemies of Germanicus, yet, according to my principles, is rather an argument against the poisoning. This was, that about the house in which he lodged, certain leaden images, relics of human bodies, and verses of incantation, were found, by which his foes evidently hoped to render his disease mortal. If they were conscious of having administered poison, these magical practices might have been spared.

On the whole, though Piso, despairing to survive the popular odium against him, and probably conscious of unwarrantable conduct towards the prince, put an end to his own life in prison, yet it appears to me almost certain, that the death of Germanicus was owing to natural disease, aggravated, perhaps, by alarm and vexation; and in no respect to poison.

One of the most famous stories in the annals of poisoning is that of pope ALEXANDER VI. and his son CÆSAR BORGIA, of whom the first is said to have been killed, and the second thrown into a dangerous illness, by poison taken through mistake, which they had themselves prepared for others. The characters of these monsters in the human shape will certainly render credible any *useful* crime which comes within the compass of the most consummate villainy; but at the same time, this just prejudice against them may easily become a cause of error in particular cases. The story is related with great diversity of circumstance by different authors; but taking that given by Tomasi, in his life of Cæsar Borgia, as apparently the most accurate, we shall probably find reason to doubt whether poison had any concern in the event. The simple narrative of what is known to have happened is the following.

Pope Alexander having made a promotion of nine new cardinals, invited them and some of the old ones to an entertainment given at the villa of a cardinal near the Vatican. He and his son went to the place
about

about the cool of the evening. It was the 2d of August, and the weather extremely hot. The pope called for a draught of wine to quench his thirst, and his son followed his example. The guests arriving soon after, they sat down to supper; when the pope was suddenly taken ill, fainted away, and was carried out senseless. His son was presently seized in the same manner, and was also carried home. The pope recovered his senses after a time, but fell into a violent fever. He was blooded, and other medicines were employed; but his strength gradually failing, he died on the eighth day.* His son had a long and severe illness, but at length, through the strength of his constitution, recovered. So far we are guided by acknowledged fact. The secret part of the story relates, that some bottles of wine, drugged with a white powder like sugar, the usual poison employed by these miscreants, were sent from the pope's cellar to the villa, with private orders to the butler to serve it to such of the guests alone as should be pointed out to him. The head butler being by chance absent when Alexander called for wine before supper, the under-butler, knowing nothing of the contrivance, or thinking this marked wine the most precious, served it to the pope and his son. These circumstances are neither in themselves very probable, nor does it appear how, if true, they should come to be publicly known. It is not likely that a man so politic as pope Alexander should, at the time he had formed great projects, for the execution of which it was necessary to gain as many friends as possible, commit a crime which could not fail to be strongly suspected, and to raise the utmost odium against him. That fancy and fiction were busy on the occasion, appears from a marvellous tale related by Tomasi, that the pope, who had constantly borne about him the holy sacrament in a gold box (an astrologer having told him that it would preserve his life from all dangers) discovered on coming to the villa that he had left it at home, and sent in all haste for it, but had swallowed the fatal draught before the messenger returned. This messenger, too, who was a cardinal, is said to have seen in his holiness's chamber a vision, representing a dead pope extended on a catafalc. Every judicious enquirer knows how much a mixture of incredible matter tends to discredit the other circumstances of a narration. But in my opinion the strongest ground of unbelief in this story is, that the death may be accounted for another way, and that the incidents of the disease do not correspond with the supposition of poison. In the unwholesome climate of Rome, the sudden cooling of the body at the close of a hot day by a large draught of cold liquor, is surely a very probable cause of an acute disease; and it appears, both from the express words of the writer, and from the treatment, that this disease was fever. The supposed poison, resembling sugar, was doubtless a preparation of arsenic; but its effects are not to excite fever,

* The pope's chamberlain, Burchard, says, that he was attacked by a fever on the 12th, was let blood on the 16th when the disorder appeared to become a tertian, and that he died on the 18th. The difference of date is probably owing to a different reckoning of style.

Germanicus himself, in which Piso sat next to him, who was imagined to have poisoned his food by touching it with infected hands—a supposition than which one more improbable and even absurd has scarcely ever been made in a similar case! The dead body, when exposed on the forum of Antioch, is said by Suetonius to have exhibited livid spots, with foam at the mouth; and a very extraordinary circumstance is related, namely, that the heart remained unconsumed on the funeral pyre; a fact which the philosophy of the day regarded as decisive of poison; though, indeed, Pliny asserts it also to occur in those who died of the *morbis cardiacus*. It is further asserted, that a famous female poisoner, an intimate of Plancina, the wife of Piso, on being sent for from the province to Rome, died suddenly at Brundisium, and that poison was found tied up in a knot of her hair. As no signs of violent death were discovered in her body, it seems to have been imagined that the power of the poison penetrated through her skull into her brain. Such weak and ridiculous arguments are surely more calculated to excite disbelief than conviction.

One thing which appeared on the trial, though a proof of the bad intentions of the enemies of Germanicus, yet, according to my principles, is rather an argument against the poisoning. This was, that about the house in which he lodged, certain leaden images, relics of human bodies, and verses of incantation, were found, by which his foes evidently hoped to render his disease mortal. If they were conscious of having administered poison, these magical practices might have been spared.

On the whole, though Piso, despairing to survive the popular odium against him, and probably conscious of unwarrantable conduct towards the prince, put an end to his own life in prison, yet it appears to me almost certain, that the death of Germanicus was owing to natural disease, aggravated, perhaps, by alarm and vexation; and in no respect to poison.

One of the most famous stories in the annals of poisoning is that of pope ALEXANDER VI. and his son CÆSAR BORGIA, of whom the first is said to have been killed, and the second thrown into a dangerous illness, by poison taken through mistake, which they had themselves prepared for others. The characters of these monsters in the human shape will certainly render credible any *useful* crime which comes within the compass of the most consummate villainy; but at the same time, this just prejudice against them may easily become a cause of error in particular cases. The story is related with great diversity of circumstance by different authors; but taking that given by Tomasi, in his life of Cæsar Borgia, as apparently the most accurate, we shall probably find reason to doubt whether poison had any concern in the event. The simple narrative of what is known to have happened is the following.

Pope Alexander having made a promotion of nine new cardinals, invited them and some of the old ones to an entertainment given at the villa of a cardinal near the Vatican. He and his son went to the place
about

about the cool of the evening. It was the 2d of August, and the weather extremely hot. The pope called for a draught of wine to quench his thirst, and his son followed his example. The guests arriving soon after, they sat down to supper; when the pope was suddenly taken ill, fainted away, and was carried out senseless. His son was presently seized in the same manner, and was also carried home. The pope recovered his senses after a time, but fell into a violent fever. He was bled, and other medicines were employed; but his strength gradually failing, he died on the eighth day.* His son had a long and severe illness, but at length, through the strength of his constitution, recovered. So far we are guided by acknowledged fact. The secret part of the story relates, that some bottles of wine, drugged with a white powder like sugar, the usual poison employed by these miscreants, were sent from the pope's cellar to the villa, with private orders to the butler to serve it to such of the guests alone as should be pointed out to him. The head butler being by chance absent when Alexander called for wine before supper, the under-butler, knowing nothing of the contrivance, or thinking this marked wine the most precious, served it to the pope and his son. These circumstances are neither in themselves very probable, nor does it appear how, if true, they should come to be publicly known. It is not likely that a man so politic as pope Alexander should, at the time he had formed great projects, for the execution of which it was necessary to gain as many friends as possible, commit a crime which could not fail to be strongly suspected, and to raise the utmost odium against him. That fancy and fiction were busy on the occasion, appears from a marvellous tale related by Tomasi, that the pope, who had constantly borne about him the holy sacrament in a gold box (an astrologer having told him that it would preserve his life from all dangers) discovered on coming to the villa that he had left it at home, and sent in all haste for it, but had swallowed the fatal draught before the messenger returned. This messenger, too, who was a cardinal, is said to have seen in his holiness's chamber a vision, representing a dead pope extended on a catafalque. Every judicious enquirer knows how much a mixture of incredible matter tends to discredit the other circumstances of a narration. But in my opinion the strongest ground of unbelief in this story is, that the death may be accounted for another way, and that the incidents of the disease do not correspond with the supposition of poison. In the unwholesome climate of Rome, the sudden cooling of the body at the close of a hot day by a large draught of cold liquor, is surely a very probable cause of an acute disease; and it appears, both from the express words of the writer, and from the treatment, that this disease was fever. The supposed poison, resembling sugar, was doubtless a preparation of arsenic; but its effects are not to excite fever,

* The pope's chamberlain, Burchard, says, that he was attacked by a fever on the 12th, was let blood on the 16th when the disorder appeared to become a tertian, and that he died on the 18th. The difference of date is probably owing to a different reckoning of style.

fever, nor would bleeding be thought of as a remedy. If it were possible that any death of Alexander VI. should *not* be attributed to poison, the circumstances of this would seem as little suspicious as any mode in which he could die. It is true, the concomitant illness of his son renders the fact more singular; but as the same natural cause operated on both, it is reasonable to suppose that the effects would be similar.

N. N.

P. S.—Since this paper was written, I find from Mr. Roscoe's Life of pope Leo. X. that Muratori has produced many authorities to refute the notion that Alexander VI. died of poison. The note from Burghard is transcribed from that valuable work.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FEROE ISLANDS.

(Continued.)

The bays and creeks among these islands afford a great many harbours, but not all equally good: in some the entrance is rendered dangerous and the anchorage ground insecure by sunken rocks; others being open towards the sea, are exposed to the violence of the waves during storms, and sometimes the nature of the neighbouring hills is such that they suffer certain winds to have free access to them, and even give rise to destructive whirlwinds and hurricanes. Most of the Feroe harbours have, indeed, one or more of these inconveniences, so that they can afford safe anchorage to ships only in the summer time; but there are some also which may be called excellent winter harbours, where not only the anchorage is good, but where ships can remain in perfect safety both from the winds and the waves.

One of the best winter harbours in Feroe is Vestmanharn, which lies on the western side of Stromoe, stretching out towards the south-west. Ships can enter it either from the west or south-west, between Kolter and Vaagoe, between Vaagoe and Nordstromoe, or between the northern end of Vaagoe and Stromoe. Both entrances are secure. The general depth of the water is from seven to twelve fathoms, but in some places it is scarcely three or four. This harbour possesses one advantage which it has in common with all the others in Feroe; it never freezes in winter, so that ships can at all times enter it and go out from it without any impediment.

Kongshavn or Skaalefiord, which lies on the south-west side of Osteroe, is considered also as a good winter harbour. It is about a mile and a half in length, and, where widest, nearly a quarter of a mile broad. In the middle the depth of the water is from thirteen to thirty-two fathoms; on the east side from seven to eighteen, and

on

on the west side from five to thirteen. The bottom consists every where of mud and sand.

Trangyisvaag, on the east side of Suderoe, is also an excellent winter harbour. It is full three quarters of a mile long, and every where a quarter of a mile broad, except at the innermost part, where it contracts itself to one-twelfth of a mile. Its depth in the middle is from eight and a half to thirteen and a half fathoms; and on the shore there are four mooring rings, to which ships can make fast their cables.

There are several other harbours, which it would be tedious to enumerate; the most considerable of which are, Vai or Vaagsfiorden, on the south-east side of Suderoe; Klaksund, on the north-west side of Bordoe; Fuglefiord, on the east side of Osteroe; Labro, on the south side of Suderoe; Qualboefiord, in the north-east part of Suderoe; and Midvaag, on the south side of Vaagoe.

It thus appears that there is no want of good harbours and anchoring places in these islands; but it cannot be denied that there is some difficulty in obtaining pilots: most places in Feroe are so situated, that when the wind blows towards the land, it is impossible for a boat, on account of the violence of the surf, to come off from the shore. The inhabitants also are so much afraid of infectious disorders, that when a signal is made for a pilot, they will often not stir from their home: the small pox and measles have not yet become endemial in Feroe; and experience has taught the natives, that when introduced among them by incautious navigators, they occasion the same ravage as the most destructive plague. These people fear, likewise, and not without some reason, that they may meet with bad treatment from the masters of the vessels who employ them, of which there have been several instances.

The currents around and between these islands are rapid and strong, especially three days before and three days after new and full moon. The inhabitants of Feroe call the new moon the sun-kindling, or merely the kindling; and full moon they call full sun; for the moon to them is the night-sun, and according to this kindling and full sun they can calculate pretty exactly the course of these currents. This knowledge is indispensibly necessary to enable them to regulate the time for going out in their boats to fish, and for undertaking long and often dangerous voyages to and from Thorshavn, which is the capital and principal place of trade.

Besides smaller ones, there are two principal currents, one of which runs from east to west, and in some places of these islands is called the East Fall, but, in common, the West Fall, because it runs towards the west. The other runs from west to east, and in most places is called the East Fall, but in some the West Fall.

There are here also several whirlpools, one of which, called *Munken*, is in the neighbourhood of Suderoe, at the distance of nearly a mile from the shore. Debes, in his *Færoa Reserata*, says, the water here makes a triple gyration round a rock placed in the center, and that in consequence of the great force of this rotatory motion, it is exceedingly dangerous

to navigators. But it may be readily seen from the whole description that Debes never examined the phenomenon, but suffered himself to be misled by the incorrect information of others.

In the year 1795, at a time when the harbour was pretty rough, and, consequently, the whirlpool more dangerous, I resolved to row out to it in a boat. This attempt, the sea being so boisterous, was indeed sufficient to excite apprehension in the breast of a stranger; but a residence of four years in Feroe had reconciled me to the threatening appearance of the waves round these islands, and I was well acquainted with the intrepidity of the natives in all operations at sea connected with danger. I placed myself, therefore, in the boat with great confidence, and could not help admiring the courage with which the boatmen encountered the awful billows, the art and ingenuity which they employed to prevent them from entering the boat, and the spirited exertion which they made in concert to force their way through the opposing eddy. After considerable labour, we arrived safe at the rock, without being whirled round, as Debes asserts; and there we remained some time as in a dead calm, in order that the boatmen might recover their strength, and to wait for the turning of the current. I had no apparatus with me to examine the depth of the water or the nature of the bottom; but I had an opportunity of observing that Debes's assertion in regard to the triple gyration round the central rock is entirely void of foundation.

The surf which prevails around these islands is very remarkable, and in winter in particular and the early part of the spring exhibits an awful and most wonderful spectacle. During bad weather the sea becomes very much agitated, and billows of a tremendous size are dashed against the coast with prodigious force. Those parts of the coast which lie open towards the sea are the most exposed to this violence; and in those bays which have a sandy bottom the sand becomes accumulated, and makes the waves rise to an astonishing height.

Where the waves meet with opposition from projecting rocks, the water thrown up into the air falls down with a rattling noise, and a person may stand safely at the bottom of the rock and be a quiet spectator of this singular phenomenon. Sometimes the waves are dashed into the apertures and cavities between the projections of the rock, and produce a most frightful noise, which seems to make the rock tremble from its foundation. These effects are different according to the nature of the place; but near Quivig, in Nordstromoe, they are almost all united; so that during the tempestuous season of the year, and particularly in the night-time, the noise occasioned by them is like continued thunder, or a long and heavy cannonade.

Sometimes this surf takes place in calm weather, or when the wind blows from the land; but I am firmly of opinion that it is occasioned by storms far out at sea. When the wind blows in-shore, a part of the surf is carried up into the atmosphere in the form of vapour, and conveyed to a considerable distance, and sometimes even to the tops of the hills. The clergyman's house at Kirketai, near Quivig, stands

at the distance of two hundred paces from the sea, yet during tempestuous weather the surf is dashed against the windows in the form of rain, and the sea water often deposits crystals on the panes of glass as large as the half of a grain of pepper. Hence it is evident, that the sea-vapour, or sea-fog, as it is generally called, may have a considerable influence on the climate of these islands.

When a calm takes place after stormy weather, the sea, in consequence of the agitation into which it has been thrown, may continue some days restless and covered with foaming surges, which the inhabitants of Feroe call *Siauarilská*; and the sea, when in that state, however fine the weather, is exceedingly dangerous. But the surface of the sea, even in a perfect calm, may sometimes be very smooth, and have a billowy motion, to which the islanders give the name of *Aléta*. This motion is much like a perpendicular vibration, for the billows rise to a considerable height, and then fall quietly back again, without the least violence or noise. It is exceedingly difficult for a boat to be rowed or to sail through these swelling surges, for they communicate to the vessel a motion similar to that which one experiences in a swing. Sometimes the boat seems to be raised on its stem and sometimes on its stern. At one time it is elevated on the ridge of the billow, and at another is precipitated into a watery gulph, where nothing is seen but a lofty mound of water, as it were, on each side. Sometimes the boat remains suspended in a state of vibration on the summit of the wave; but if the boat be rowed forwards, and the wave sinks beneath it, there remains a vacuity under a part of the boat, so that it falls down with a splash into the cavity, making the water fly out from it on both sides. Navigation in this state of the sea is attended with another inconvenience. When a boat is near the land, where there are holes or fissures in the rocks, the water is driven into them, and the air contained in these cavities being compressed, forces its way out with a loud report like that of a cannon, carrying with it the water in the form of smoke or vapour, in which the rays of the sun produce sometimes a beautiful rainbow.

As the Feroe islands lie in the latitude of 62° north, the sun during the three summer months is scarcely four hours beneath the horizon, and at that time it may be said that there is no night. At any rate, there is so much light in the night-time, that one can clearly see to read and write. But the days in winter are so much shorter, and would be exceedingly dark, were not this deficiency in some measure supplied by the morning and evening twilight. Considering the latitude, it might be imagined that a severer cold prevails here in winter than in the more southern provinces of Denmark; but the contrary is proved by experience. The summers are cooler, and the heat is never so great as to be oppressive to people at labour; but as the heat is more temperate in summer, the cold is also less severe in winter. The sea round the coast never freezes; sometimes, indeed, a thin crust of ice is formed in some of the inland creeks or bays, where the water is calm; but it is never so strong that a boat cannot be rowed through
it;

it; and the fresh water streams and ponds seldom produce ice so thick that a person could walk on it with safety. The cause of this great mildness in winter is the vicinity of the sea, by which all these islands is surrounded, and which, in consequence of its continual agitation, fills the whole atmosphere with saline vapours; for we are taught by the modern chemistry that saline vapours contain caloric, and when the saline particles of these vapours crystallise, the latent heat is disengaged, and being left in the lower regions, renders the atmosphere less cold. But the weather in Feroe is never uniform, and the barometer is exceedingly variable: a continually fine and dry summer is almost as uncommon as a continually cold winter. A great deal of snow falls in winter, but it seldom lies more than eight days, particularly in the villages, where there may be a thaw or mild weather when it snows or freezes among the hills. The labour of the inhabitants in procuring turf for fuel and preparing their hay is often impeded and rendered exceedingly troublesome by wet summers.

The Feroe islands labour under the imputation of being foggy, and consequently unhealthy. The first part of this charge may indeed be true; but it does not follow that the second is so also; for the fog here is never accompanied with a bad smell, as the fogs in Denmark are: it is only damp and sometimes saltish; and I do not consider it as prejudicial to the health. The air in Feroe is often heavy and filled with misty vapours; but these vapours are neither so oppressive nor so constant as is generally believed.

In Feroe three different names are given to the fog, according to the region which it occupies. When it is like a white cloud on the tops of the hills, it is called *Skadda*: this fog generally produces wind. When it extends so far down the sides of the hills that their summits are seen projecting above it, it is called *Podlamyorkie*.

These two kinds of fog never reach the habitations of the natives, and therefore they are not incommoded by them; sometimes, but rarely, when they wish to go to the hills in quest of their sheep, they are prevented by the *Podlamyorkie*, for it is so thick that a person cannot see to the distance of a few yards, and therefore when it takes place they are obliged to defer this labour till another day.

Morkye is the name given to the fog when it approaches the valleys, covers the sea, and fills the whole atmosphere. This fog is the most incommodious to the people of these islands: it is not, indeed, prejudicial to the health, but it renders the roads unsafe for travellers, prevents the inhabitants from looking after their sheep, impedes their fishing, and conceals the tops of the hills which serve them as landmarks; but, fortunately, it never continues longer than a few days, and, I may venture to assert, that it is not more frequent in Feroe than in Denmark.

(To be continued.)

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON "COMFORT" AND
"COMFORTABLE."

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

A CORRESPONDENT in your last number has favoured your readers with some remarks on the words *comfort* and *comfortable*, which appear to me in many respects just: I cannot, however, but think that his definition of *comfort* is faulty in being made so large, that the greatest part of his paper is occupied in limitations. "The possession and enjoyment of what a man wants, and the exemption from all incumbrances," is a description so comprehensive that it can correspond with nothing less than a term denoting happiness in general; for in what else does happiness consist? If the supply of want be essential to comfort, your correspondent may well assert that comfort is a very different thing to different people; for what so vague and various as human wants? I was lately told of a rich citizen who was making heavy complaint of the high price of pine-apples. "You know (says he) when one has a few friends to dinner, one likes to make them *comfortable*; so, having a party last week, I sent for a brace of pines; and, would you believe it? I was charged six guineas for them, and they were not fit to eat." If the comfort of his guests after a dinner of turtle and venison depended upon pine-apples, I wonder how many degrees of *want* must be placed between them and the labourer who makes a comfortable meal with his family upon a dish of potatoes with a slice of bacon! It is a mighty *comfortable* thing in a cold morning to step out of bed upon a bed-side carpet, and if our volunteers should be called out to a winter campaign, I doubt several of them would sadly miss such an indulgence; but I suppose few French conscripts ever heard of such a piece of furniture. With respect to *incumbrances*, I think I know some men who would consider a wife and half a dozen children in a small house as the greatest incumbrances in nature, and totally incompatible with every idea of comfort; but the pious Melancthon wrote works of profound learning in perfect tranquillity while he was rocking the cradle with one foot; and many a practical philosopher among our mechanics is able to forget both wife and brats over a pipe and a pot of porter.

In speaking of *comfort absolutely*, your correspondent says, "the most general wants of mankind, and the most comprehensive rules of convenience, are to be regarded;" but as soon as we quit the limits of what is essential to the preservation of life and health, we find such interminable diversities, that this limitation stands for nothing. The absolute comforts of an inhabitant of London or Paris, and of a Kamtshatkan, bear scarcely any relation if *positively* considered: I therefore think, that if the word will admit of a precise definition, it must turn upon *negative* qualities. Whenever, from any cause external or

internal, bodily or mental, we are brought into a state of uneasiness, we feel the want of its removal; and when this is effected, the change produces relative *comfort*. Thus, one who comes in from abroad wet and cold, is rendered *comfortable* by dry cloaths and a good fire; and the mother who is under apprehensions for the safety of her son at sea, is *comforted* by the news of the ship's arrival in port. Comfort, indeed, in its sense of *consolation*, always implies relief from preceding suffering; and I suspect that the use of the word for positive good is a mere abuse of language. It probably has arisen from the figure of speech which consists in diminution or disparagement, and is the result either of affectation or of querulousness. If, therefore, an Englishman terms *comforts* of life, what another would call *blessings* or *enjoyments*, it is, perhaps, only a consequence of the coldness and mingled discontent with which he is accustomed to regard the advantages he possesses, looking upon them merely as alleviations of that human lot which would otherwise be intolerable. For that there is any essential difference in his estimate of goods and evils from that of other people in a similar state of society, I see no reason to believe. Where is the country in which to eat and drink well, to be decently clad, to be protected from the inclemencies of the seasons, to be waited upon, to be excused from toilsome and disagreeable occupations, are not reckoned among the most desirable things in life? and the name given to the aggregate of these is immaterial.

Yours, &c.

COSMUS.

For the Athenæum.

SKETCH OF A TOUR INTO THE COUNTY OF WICKLOW.

THE immediate neighbourhood of a metropolis, while usually distinguished by the characteristic features of an exuberant population, splendid villas, and a cultivation carried to its highest pitch of excellence, can rarely boast of those magnificent natural beauties, which arrest the steps of the traveller, and charm the admirer of the grand and picturesque in the works of nature. In this respect the city of Dublin may probably claim a pre-eminence over most of the other capitals of Europe. The scenery in the neighbouring county of Wicklow possesses a character of romantic and varied beauty, which entitles it to rank high among the most favoured spots in the British isles; and it would be difficult, perhaps, to name any district of the same extent, in which an equal number of attractive objects are held out to the notice of the observing traveller. The inhabitant of Dublin may arrive in the course of a few hours at the place where these objects first present themselves; while an absence of four or five days from his city occupations enables him to compre-

hend

hend and survey all the most interesting features in this truly delightful district. Nor are the natural beauties of the country the only circumstances which claim the attention, or interest the feelings of the traveller in Wicklow. He is here passing over a principal scene of the Irish rebellion; traversing a ground which is still reeking with human blood; and marking the effects, produced upon the character and habits of the people, by those scenes of horror, which will long be held in anxious and shuddering recollection by every rational inhabitant of Ireland. The vast unfrequented tracts of mountainous or boggy land, on the western side of Wicklow, formed a secure retreat for bodies of straggling insurgents during this period of agitation and alarm; while the southern parts of the county, bordering upon Wexford, were distinguished by those more destructive conflicts and ravages, to which no feeling mind can revert without the deepest and most sincere regret. The observation of facts, connected with these circumstances, though in some measure a painful employment, cannot but be interesting to every one, who has at heart the welfare of his country.

Should the pages of the *Athenæum* not be more worthily occupied, the Editor will, perhaps, accept for insertion the narrative of a short tour into this district, made during the summer which has just elapsed. The excursion was, indeed, a hasty one; but it comprehended several objects and circumstances, a short sketch of which may possibly afford gratification to some of the readers of the *Magazine*.

I left Dublin at 7 o'clock, on a fine August morning, in company with a friend, from whose society I derived a most valuable addition to the other enjoyments of the tour. Being desirous of arriving as soon as possible in the county of Wicklow, we took a chaise to Bray, ten Irish, or about thirteen English, miles, from Dublin. This was the first Irish post-chaise in which I had ever seated myself; and it must be acknowledged that the sample, though exhibited in the metropolis of Ireland, was far from a prepossessing one. The antiquity of a vehicle never renders it a more respectable object in the eyes of a traveller; and the one which was presented to us in this instance bore every mark of the most decrepid age. The principle of the Irish innkeepers, with respect both to chaises and horses, appears to be, to keep them up as long as it is possible, without any direct charge upon their pockets: in conformity with this plan, the chaises are allowed to fall gradually into a ruinous state, and the horses are worked down, without recourse to the means by which their strength might be preserved, and their exertions prolonged. Nor does it appear, as far as I can judge from enquiries on the subject, that any very rapid amelioration in these points is at present taking place: the existence of the evil has a powerful effect in preventing the introduction of the good. The well-known inconveniences of the post-chaises in Ireland induce every family or party of tourists to employ, if possible, their own carriages in travelling through the country; while the uncertainty of the demand for chaises, produced in this way, is doubtless a means of keeping

keeping these vehicles in their present wretched and imperfect state. Happy, however, would it be for Ireland, were inconveniences of travelling the only internal evil for which the comforts of her people required a remedy!

Passing through the magnificent streets and squares, which form the central part of Dublin, we left the city at the southern boundary, and crossing the Grand Canal, near the place where it forms its junction with the Liffey, approached shortly afterwards the shore of Dublin Bay. For more than a mile the road proceeds close to the water's edge, but the lowness of this level renders the views much less interesting than those presented at many other points on this coast. From whatever situation, however, it be seen, the bay of Dublin cannot fail of impressing with admiration the eye of the beholder. The perfection of its form, the beautiful and picturesque character of the shores, and the mountainous grandeur of the country, which forms, in the greater part of its circumference, a termination to the view, are combined in producing a general effect the most delightful and interesting that can well be conceived. Of the several features which compose this scene, the southern shore of the bay is indisputably the most striking. A gradual ascent of four or five miles from the sea conducts the eye to the precipitous rise of the Dublin and Wicklow mountains in the back ground: this ascending ground, which, in a gracefully sweeping curve, forms the boundary of the bay for several miles, is covered with villages, parks, plantations, villas, and every other object indicative of the neighbourhood of an opulent and flourishing metropolis. Nothing, in truth, can exceed the beauty and magnificence of this prospect, more especially in those views of it which are commanded from the opposite shores, and from the entrance into the bay. A circumstance which contributes its proportion to the general effect, is the custom, universally prevalent in this part of the country, of covering the sides, and, in some instances, the roofs of the houses, with a white rough-cast composition: this, while it renders each individual object more distinct from distant points of view, adds at the same time very materially to the picturesque description of the scenery at large. It may be doubted how far the numerous Martello towers, which line this as well as every other shore of the bay, are conducive to the latter effect. Their mechanical forms and arrangement do not harmonize well with the nature of the surrounding objects; while to him, who is acquainted with the history of their construction, they present a new and melancholy instance of those unnecessary, jobbing expenditures, which are so frequent in the sister island.

Black-rock, at which we arrived an hour after leaving Dublin, has a situation considerably elevated above the bay, and is certainly one of the most attractive spots in the vicinity of the Irish metropolis. So great has been the influx into this place, that it is now become a large and handsome town, containing very many excellent houses, and some truly magnificent ones. Lord Aldborough, Lord Cloncurry, and several other noblemen have seats in the neighbourhood, the grounds

grounds about which are in general extremely well wooded, and approach nearly to the water's edge. Beyond Black-rock, and pursuing the shores of the bay, are the equally beautiful villages of Williamstown, Dunleary, and Dalkey; composed almost exclusively either of the summer residences of people of rank or fortune, or of handsome lodging-houses, devoted to the use of those who wish to enjoy the pleasures of sea-bathing, and of a country situation which abounds in the most delightful objects. This, too, is a very favourite excursion for the day with the inhabitants of Dublin. On Sunday, when the weather is tolerably fine, the road along the south shore of the bay is thronged with passengers and vehicles of every description; and indeed, when one considers the avidity with which the citizens of London crowd along the level, dusty roads, and through the tiresome ranges of parallel buildings, in the vicinity of that metropolis, it can scarcely excite astonishment that the people of Dublin should, with equal eagerness, avail themselves of the superior natural beauties which the neighbourhood of their city affords. The vehicle most frequently employed on these occasions is the jaunting car; a description of carriage well adapted to the purposes of viewing the country, and which, from the comparative smallness of its original cost, and the trifling expence attendant upon it, is possessed by a great number of families in the middle ranks of life. Nor are the lower class of people without their resources of this kind. That rude, awkward machine, the Irish *jingle*, open at top, and supported upon four lofty ill-constructed wheels, may be seen rattling over the road with as much speed as one horse, drawing six or eight passengers, can support; and guided by an uncouth-looking fellow, with whom the lowest ostler at an English inn would scorn to associate himself. The great abundance of these vehicles in Dublin, and the cheapness of the conveyance, enable a vast number of people to make country excursions, who would otherwise be precluded from ever stirring beyond the precincts of the city; while they furnish to the casual observer a copious source of amusement, in the contemplation of the singular groupes of these tourists of a day, who are following thus closely the steps of their superiors in life.

Leaving the village of Dunleary to the left, we now proceeded at a greater distance from the coast, of which, however, we caught at intervals some very pleasing views. The road, though wide, and upon the whole tolerably good, was still not such as might have been expected from the immediate vicinity of the capital. The same general remark may be extended to the state of cultivation in the country through which we passed. While the greater number of fields betokened the industry and care of the farmer, there were still very many which bore the most evident marks of neglect or want of skill: several I observed, in which the ragwort and thistle might almost have been mistaken for the crop which was sought for from the land. The rents are, as might be expected, very high in this neighbourhood; varying from six or eight to fourteen pounds per acre of Irish measure:

this

this gives an average of about six pounds for the English statute acre; the proportion of the Irish acre being to the English as 5 to 3, or more exactly as 49 to 30. Though the summer had been a very dry one, and it was now near the latter end of August, I remarked that the greater proportion of the year's crop of hay was still remaining in large cocks upon the fields. Nor was this observation merely of a local nature: in every part of Ireland it is considered necessary to keep the hay out thus long, to prevent the risk of its firing when put into stack. The extreme dampness of the Irish climate may, perhaps, afford the best explanation of this circumstance: the substance of the grass, loaded with moisture, requires, to produce the proper degree of dryness in it, a longer exposure to the air than is either necessary or proper in most parts of England. This dampness of the climate is extremely favourable to the state of the pastures in Ireland. I have seen in the counties of Kildare and East Meath large tracts of grass land, decidedly superior to any I have observed in England; and, though this superiority does not extend to the county of Wicklow, the pastures here may certainly be regarded as very excellent with respect both to the quantity and quality of the grass.

On approaching the town of Bray, the views along the coast become exceedingly grand and interesting. The principal features in the prospect are the promontories of Killaney and Bray; the first forming by its bold front a southern barrier to the entrance into Dublin Bay; the latter, still more lofty, rugged, and precipitous, projecting itself into the sea at some distance further to the south. Between these headlands, and almost concealed by their overhanging sides, is the beautiful little bay of Killaney; which, situated elsewhere, might have been celebrated in the narrative of the traveller, or song of the descriptive poet; but placed so near to the bay of Dublin, its beauties are lessened in the comparison, and it is little known but as an appendage to descriptions of the latter. Opposite to Killaney Head, and at the distance of a mile from the shore, is the barren rock called Dalkey island, on which, previously to the rebellion, the ceremony of a burlesque coronation was annually performed; some person from among the Dublin populace being usually selected as monarch of the isle, and attended to his mock throne by vast numbers of people. Directed more to the right, the eye embraces in the distant view the lofty summits of the two Sugar-Loaf mountains, so named from the perfect conical forms which they assume. The Great Sugar-Loaf, or highest of the two, is one of the most elevated points in the island, and forms a striking and conspicuous object from every part of the adjacent coast. These mountains are granitic in their structure, a circumstance which their peaked and abrupt forms would alone be sufficient to indicate.

We got to Bray at half past nine. This town, which is situated upon the sea coast, consists principally of one street, somewhat more, perhaps, than half a mile in length. The houses, generally speaking, are low and mean, and the town presents nothing that is particularly worthy

worthy the attention of the stranger. The church is a tolerably handsome building, and, in the immediate vicinity of the town, we observed an extensive range of barracks for the reception of the military, who are usually stationed here. We breakfasted at Quin's, the principal inn, where the accommodations, though better than in most of the Irish country towns, do not appear adequate to the extent of the posting business in the place. Bray forms the principal entrance from Dublin into the county of Wicklow, and during the summer and autumn the number of people passing through the town upon this excursion is great beyond calculation.

Having fortified ourselves for walking by a hearty meal, we left our shattered chaise to that ruinous fate which, it was evident, must ere long overtake it, and set forwards on foot for the Dargle, the first object in the Wicklow scenery which claims the attention of the traveller. The direct distance from Bray to this place is little more than two miles. The intervening country possesses that peculiar character which is usually observed on the outskirts of a mountainous district: it is hilly and picturesque, without displaying any feature of wildness or sublimity. The valleys and sides of the hills are for the most part covered with wood, and numerous villas present themselves in the view. The scenery of the Dargle may be considered as intermediate between this and the more romantic grandeur of the mountainous region. Tracing upwards for some distance the course of a small river, we arrived at the spot, where it emerges from a deep chasm or glen, the precipitous sides of which are clothed even to their summits with a thick foliage, interrupted only by the protrusion here and there of vast masses of rock, which hang their abrupt forms over the valley beneath. This is the Dargle in its general appearance, and the same interesting character of scenery is preserved throughout the whole extent of the glen, which is considerably more than a mile in length. Entering the majestic woods to the north of the stream, we followed a path which has been cut through them, enjoying the coolness of the protecting shade, and pausing occasionally at the different openings in the foliage to contemplate the beautiful and varied views which here presented themselves. The path, gradually ascending through the wood, conducted us at length to the summit of the hill, which forms the northern barrier of the valley. At this point a huge mass of rock, projecting abruptly forward over the valley, forms a perpendicular precipice, two or three hundred feet in height, which has received the name of the Lover's Leap. The most vivid powers of imagination would fail in depicting to the mind a scene of such romantic and interesting beauty as nature here spreads before the view. The eye, from this elevated situation, comprehends every part of the deep glen below; catches at intervals the waters of the stream, rushing impetuously over rocks displaced from the cliffs above, and contrasting their silvery foam with the dark foliage of the overhanging woods; traces to the left, the glen gradually expanding into an open, champion country, bounded by the azure expanse of the sea, and to the right,

right, embraces a beautiful landscape, in which are seen the picturesque castle and demesne of Powerscourt, surmounted behind by the lofty and rugged hills which form the interior of the county. An interesting feature in the prospect from this point is the elevated peak of the Great Sugar-Loaf mountain, rising over the woods which cloathe the opposite precipitous side of the valley, and seeming to look defiance upon the smaller objects around it. Nor is the eye the only sense gratified by the loveliness of this view. The roaring of the stream in its rocky channel below comes to the ear at this distance a mellowed and musical sound, harmonizing well with the general character of the scenery, and rendering still more vivid the emotions which its beauty must excite in every susceptible mind.

Our walk through the Dargle was by no means a solitary one. We met several parties engaged in the contemplation of the same objects by which we had been so much delighted: and observed, at the bottom of the valley, an artist attempting to convey to his canvas a resemblance of the surrounding beauties; an undertaking which nature seemed to laugh to scorn. It must be allowed, however, that the characteristic features in the scenery of the Dargle are of frequent occurrence in all mountainous districts, and that their principal distinction arises from the grandeur of the scale on which they are here exhibited. Two spots at this moment occur to my recollection, as having a most perfect and entire resemblance to the scene I have just described; —the valley of the Mouse near Lanark, and the glen between Rosline castle and Leswade, a few miles from Edinburgh. The latter spot every lover of poetry will recollect to have admired in the exquisite little episode of Rosabelle, one of the numerous beauties by which the Lay of the Last Minstrel is so eminently distinguished.

The woods in the Dargle consist chiefly of oak and ash; and from the growth and size of the trees, as well as from their peculiar beauty in this situation, they form a most valuable property to the possessors. The lands to the north of the glen belong to Lord Powerscourt: those of Tinnahinch, which lie to the south, are the property of the patriotic and eloquent Grattan; a man to whose abilities and ardent zeal for the interests of his country, a splendid testimony was borne by the Irish parliament, in their almost unanimous, though unsolicited vote of 50,000*l.* as a recompence for his public exertions. After this, must it be told that the portrait of Mr. Grattan, in the public theatre of the Dublin College, was taken down at the period of the rebellion, and that of Mr. Foster substituted for it! This fact is strange, but true.

(To be continued.)

MRS. CAPPE'S ANSWER TO ENQUIRIES.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

THE enquiry of your respectable correspondent V. M. in the last number of the Athenæum, has given me great pleasure, as it supplies a proof that there are others who consider a plan formed upon ideas somewhat similar to that which I have endeavoured to adopt in the work now preparing for the press, and in which truth alone, as far as it is discoverable, is meant to be the object, as being exceedingly desirable. I will, therefore, with your obliging permission, endeavour to answer his several interrogatories, as fully as the limits to which I must confine myself will admit, through the channel of the same valuable miscellany.

To give an *entire* harmony of the gospels, if by that is meant a harmony free from every possible objection, would be far beyond any little power of mine to accomplish; but being in possession of many valuable notes and important reflections, transcribed from the shorthand papers of my late husband, when under the pressure, during nine years, of severe disease, an employment at once his consolation and mine, I have felt it a duty to attempt putting them before the public: and being also in possession of an outline of the order of events in the life and public ministry of Christ, as they appeared to have occurred, from a careful examination of the several accounts of the four Evangelists, together with the probable duration of that ministry, sketched out by his hand, I have endeavoured to fill up the outline, in hope, that by adopting that method, the whole series of remarks, observations, and deductions, with their results, would be seen by the reader, without confusion or obscurity.

The concentrated narrative is always in the words of the received version, with the exception of the avoidance of a few grammatical inaccuracies, and except where the reasons for the departure from it are given in a note at the bottom of the page. The work is divided into sections, at the head of which is an account of the contents, together with a reference to the chapters and verses from which the account is taken. The notes are all at the bottom of the page, and at the end of each section such reflections are added as appeared to arise unavoidably out of the narrative. As to any future plan of extending the work, it might be presumptuous as well as visionary in one so far advanced in life, and who has already much other business on her hands, to have formed any. Her wishes, perhaps, might extend to an attempt to go through the Acts of the Apostles in like manner. If this answer should be satisfactory to V. M. it will give great pleasure to one who sincerely wishes him success in any labours he may undertake on motives so honourable, and who is, with sentiments of sincere respect,

Sir, your much obliged servant,

CATH. CAPPE.

London, Oct. 3, 1808.

SYNONYMIC ELUCIDATIONS CONTINUED.

*Trip. Jaunt. Excursion. Ramble. Tour.**To trip* is to move lightly on the feet:

Come, and trip it as you go,
On the light fantastic toe.

Milton.

A trip, therefore, is properly pedestrian amusement; but it is applied to any short journey, which might have come within the limits of a walk.

Jante is French for the felly of a wheel. Hence *janter*, to put the fellys in motion; to go abroad in a carriage. Those are said to be fond of *jaunting*, who under slight pretences get themselves moved about upon wheels. A *jaunt* is any needless ride in a carriage.

Excursion is Latin for *a running out*. Celerity of removal, departure from the strait course, and return to the starting-place, are ideas essential to the term.

To ramble is the frequentative of *to roam*: it means *to roam repeatedly*. A trip made up of many strolls is a ramble.

Tour is French for *a turn*, or circuit. The essential idea is, that the return takes place by a different road from the setting out. A journey made to and fro the same way is not a tour. *Faire le tour du monde*.

Many a pious pilgrimage has been undertaken, because it promised an amusing trip. Country families often intervisit as much for the sake of the jaunt as of the society. We shall stop on our way to Edinburgh, and make an excursion to the lakes: to ramble among mountains is always delightful: my daughter is reading Espriella's tour, that none of the celebrated points of view may escape us.

Old. Ancient. Antique.

These words rise upon one another: antique is more than ancient; ancient is more than old. An old man: an ancient family: an antique cameo. An old record: an ancient word: an antique record.

Old, according to Wachter, is the participle of *alen*, to grow: it describes what has long been, but what still exists. Ancient and antique are both derived from the Latin preposition *ante*, before: they describe that which is of other times, which existed before us. The word *ancient* coming to us from the French, and the word *antique* from the Latin, an accessory idea of remoter and of classical antiquity is attached to the latter term.

A fashion is old when it is decaying; ancient when its use has been some time past: antique when it is of Greek or Roman time. How inferior to antique sculpture are the ancient carvings in Gothic cathedrals. *L'antique a toujours été la règle de la beauté.*

There is, however, so much of caprice in the use of these words,
that

that by ancient history we mean, not the history of our forefathers, but Greek or Roman history. Ancient is opposed to modern: old to new. An old family is one, where the individuals are stricken in years: an ancient family is one, whose pedigree has been preserved for many generations: an antique family is one, which, like the houses of Courtenay and Colonna, can connect its genealogy with imperial or patrician families of antiquity. The French say, *Il est mon ancien dans le parlement*, he is my senior in parliament. The English never use the word ancient in that manner.

My copper lamps at any rate
For being true antique I bought;
And wisely melted down my plate
On modern models to be wrought. *Prior.*

Apotheosis. Deification.

Apotheosis is Greek for *placing among the gods*; deification is Latin for *making into gods*. Apotheosis is the ceremony which announces a deification. The funeral of a Roman emperor was an apotheosis. The apotheosis of a catholic saint is called a canonization. Fancy personifies the powers of nature; and paganism deified them. During the transubstantiation of the eucharistic wafer, the bread undergoes deification and obtains apotheosis.

Perfume. Aromatic.

Perfume is the odor which ascends from sweet-smelling substances. Aromatic is a body which supplies perfume, especially of the spicy kind. *Aroma* means spice, and *parfum* a fine smock.

Sailor. Seaman. Mariner. Waterman.

All these words denote persons occupied in navigation. Sailor is mostly applied to the common men, or, in the sea-phrases, to those before the mast. Seamen is mostly applied to the superior class of the crew, to the officers and pilot. Mariner is applied to those who gain their living at sea, but are their own masters, as fishermen. Waterman designates a fresh-water sailor, a man who, on rivers, lakes, or canals, exercises any department of the nautical profession.

Sailors are ignorant of scientific navigation, and are they who work the vessel by the direction of others: seamen are supposed to understand it, and are they who direct. Mariners work their own vessels, and adhere to their own coasts; they do not, like sailors and seamen, make long voyages. Watermen make use of the sail and oar; but still more of the quant, or long pole, with which in shallows they push their barges along.

To send. To carry. To bring. To fetch.

To send is to convey by deputy; to carry, to bring, to fetch, is to convey under one's own care. To carry, is to go with a burden; to bring,

bring, is to come with a burden. To fetch, implies movement in two directions; it is to go and bring. To send away; to carry out; to bring home; to fetch back.

Residing in the country, what I forward to London by *another*, I send; what I take *to* London, I carry; what I take *from* London with me, I bring; what I *went* to take, I fetch. If I send for a workman, he brings his tools: should he leave any behind, he goes back to fetch them: when his job is done, he carries them home.

If you would have your business done, go; if not, send. *Carry it home*, implies that I am from home: *bring it home*, implies that I am at home. We may bring without fetching; but we cannot fetch without bringing. To fetch breath is to make the double effort of exhalation and inhalation. He sends an answer who forwards it by another; he carries an answer who bears it thither himself; he brings an answer who bears it hither himself; he fetches an answer who went for it and returns with it.

Send (Gothic *sendjan*) is the causative form of the old verb *sinan*, to go; in Anglo-Saxon, *sithian*: according to Wachter, *sind* means a path. As from *to fall* comes *to fell*, to cause to fall; so from *sinan*, to go, comes *sindian*, to cause to go.

Carry is from the French *charier*, which is from the Latin *carrus*, and originally implied to transport on a wheeled carriage: hence an idea of facility in conveying still attaches to the word. You can lift that weight, but you cannot carry it. Carry it properly, do not drag it along. A dog is said to fetch and carry well, who will run for a stick, which is thrown before him, and bring it to his master without trailing. This sense of the verb *to carry* is unnoticed by Johnson.

Bring is contracted from the preposition *by*, which originally meant *the lap*, and *ringen*, to reach: *ringt uns unser swar* is frankish for reach us our sword. To bring, is to hand into the lap.

Fetch is from the Anglo-Saxon, *feccian*, which means to hit with an arrow. Hence the ideas of sending out, as well as bringing back, coalesce in the word.

Content. Satisfied.

Content is Latin for *contained*: it does not imply fulness, it excludes the idea of running over.

Satisfied is Latin for *having done enough*: it implies that further exertion would pass the limits of comfort.

Content with a moderate income. Satisfied with moderate exercise. Do not content yourselves with obscure and confused ideas, where clearer are to be attained.

Watts.

My lust shall be satisfied upon them.

Exodus.

Mine. My own.

Mine suggests a dependence of habit, my own a dependence of property. The house I hire is *mine*: the house I buy is *my own*. A workman,

workman, to whom certain tools have been allotted by his master, may with propriety say these tools are *mine*, although they are not *his own*, being the property of his master. The clothes of a wife are *her's*, though in the eye of the law they are not *her own*, but the property of her husband. *Own* is a contraction of *owen*, the past participle of the verb *to owe*.

Anterior. Antecedent.

Anterior means prior as to time, and antecedent prior as to space. Anterior is opposed to posterior, and antecedent to subsequent. Such at least is the tendency of usage, and the verdict of the etymologist Roubaud: yet the application of the word *anterior* to time only, is neither based on ancient usage nor etymonic necessity. The Latins say, *anteire aliquem virtutibus*, to excel one in virtue: *anteire opibus*, to excel in wealth: from the analogy of which expressions one might seemingly be justified in writing, anterior in wealth, anteriority of virtue. Yet as *anteire* is *to go before* on the same level, and as that which presents itself first must have advanced first in point of time, the present use of the word is natural.

For the Athenæum.

A ROMAN COUNTRY-SEAT.

AMONG the epigrams of Martial, there are several that are rather short pieces of description, than points of wit; and of these some are singularly valuable on account of the notices they afford of manners and customs prevailing at that time both in the capital and the provinces. In the 58th epigram of the third book he has given a picture of an Italian villa, the abode of rural plenty, in contrast to a merely ornamental suburban box, with which I have often been much entertained, and I think a translation of it, with some explanatory comments, may prove no unacceptable article for the Athenæum. I shall only attempt a prose version, as accuracy of representation is my principal object. It is scarcely necessary to inform your readers that Martial flourished in the first century, chiefly in the reign of Domitian.

The poet begins with telling his friend Bassus, that the Baian villa of their acquaintance Faustinus is not one of those which idly occupy a wide space of ground with plantations of useless myrtle, or the sterile plane, or the shorn box, but is a genuine rustic country-house. It is to be observed that the trees and shrubs above-mentioned were the principal ornaments of the Roman pleasure-grounds, and we learn from Pliny that cutting box into artificial and fantastic forms was as much the practice then, as it has ever been since. The Baian territory in the vicinity of Naples is well known to have been one of the favourite

vourite retreats of the Roman nobility, who enhanced the delights of a beautiful situation and a delicious climate with all the contrivances of refined luxury; but none of these are mentioned as belonging to the villa of Faustinus.

"Here (says Martial) every corner of the house is crammed with the gifts of Ceres, and numerous casks smell of the products of remote autumns. Here, on the approach of winter, the vine-dresser brings in late bunches of grapes.* Bulls bellow in the deep valley, and the calf with unarmed forehead longs for the combat. Here wander all the tribes of the poultry yard; the cackling goose, and the gemmed peacock, and the fowl which owes its name to its scarlet plumage;† the painted partridge,‡ and the spotted Numidian fowl,§ and the pheasant from Colchos: here strutting cocks court their Rhodian hens;|| the turrets resound with the clattering pigeon, and the stockdove and turtle plain. The greedy swine follow the feeder's apron, and the fleecy lamb expects its full mother. Well-fed domestics** surround the clear fire, and whole trees flame before the festal lares. Here no one is pale with idleness, or occupied in useless exercises; but one lays snares for the voracious thrushes, another draws out fish with his trembling rod, or brings home the hind entangled in his toils: meanwhile the garden employs the jocund town-bred servants, and even the ministers of pleasure obey the farm-bailiff. Not a rustic comes to pay his respects empty-handed; but brings either white honey in the comb, or a new cheese, or sleepy dormicett from the neighbouring wood, or the bleating offspring of the shaggy dam,†† or the steril capon. Well-grown daughters of honest husbandmen bring their mother's presents in ozier baskets. The glad neighbour is invited when his work is done; the unsparing board makes no reserve for the morrow's feast; and the satiated servant does not envy the tipsy guest. You (Bassus) on the contrary, possess close to the city an elegant starving-place;§§ and from a lofty tower you look down upon barren laurels, in a garden where Priapus is in no fear of thieves. You feed a vine-dresser with town-bought meal; and at
leisure

* These are dried raisins.

† The Phœnicoptorus, or Flamingo, esteemed as a great delicacy, and kept tame with the poultry, as in some places it has since been.

‡ Partridges and pheasants were kept tame by the Romans. The former are so at present in large flocks in the Greek islands. Some of our great preservers of game have pheasants so far domesticated as to feed at the barn door.

§ This is our Guinea-fowl, well characterized in its plumage by the Latin epithet *guttata*.

|| Rhodes was famous for its breed of poultry.

** The *Vernæ*, or house-born slaves, who seem to have been indulgently treated by the Romans.

†† The *Glis*, Greater Dormouse, French, *Loir*, was a Roman delicacy, and was fattened in cages.

‡‡ The Goat.

§§ "*Fames munda*," a strong figurative expression which will not bear rendering into prose.

leisure hours carry out to your painted villa, herbs, eggs, pullets, fruit, cheese, and must. Is this to be called a country-seat, or a town-house at a distance?"

The "Connoisseur," in No. 33, has borrowed the latter part of this epigram as a motto for an humorous description of a cit's country-box in the mode of 1754. The writer's imitation of the concluding lines is very happy.

Hither on Sundays you repair,
While heaps of viands load the chair,
With poultry brought from Leadenhall,
And cabbage from the huckster's stall;
'Tis not the Country, you must own,
'Tis only London out of town.

PRISCUS.

AN OBSTACLE TO THE CONVERSION OF THE HINDOOS CONSIDERED.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

AMONG the various institutions for the religious, moral, and political improvement of savage tribes which at present flourish among us, one of the most prominent is that which has for its object the conversion of the natives of Hindostan to the Christian faith: if this be not the object of several, rather than of a single institution. The pre-eminent importance of this object cannot be questioned, when we take into our consideration the immense multitude of people upon whom it is intended to operate—the singularity of the condition in which these people have invariably continued since they were first visited by Europeans—and the deep interest which we have at stake in the country of these people, chiefly dependent upon their fidelity and good will. An additional interest is attached to the inquiry by the zeal and warmth with which both the friends and the antagonists of this measure are at present urging their arguments, whether of defence or of attack.

There are some who pretend to assert, that it is altogether impossible to introduce Christianity to any considerable extent into Hindostan. They consider the institution of casts, the hereditary prejudices of the natives against a change of faith, and the preponderant influence of the Brahmins, as insuperable barriers to this most desirable event. But I am not disposed to go by any means so far as this. These impediments are undoubtedly of very great force, but they are not altogether insurmountable. Christianity has actually flourished in India to a considerable extent for many centuries. The Christians of St. Thomé, and some other sects, at present amount to some hundred thousands, and are permitted to exercise their faith in tranquillity by the

the Hindoo worshippers of Brahma, who are as little disposed to disturb others in their peculiar creed, as they are averse to be tampered with in what regards their own. This proves very clearly that Christianity may obtain a permanent footing in India, and that its disciples may by prudence enjoy the ordinary comforts of life. It appears to me a great error in the conduct of the missionaries, that they have not cultivated an intercourse with the more ancient Indian followers of Christ, and endeavoured to become acquainted with their habits and peculiar tenets, as well as to procure their co-operation and good will. In the arduous contest in which they have engaged, it would surely be advisable to obtain the assistance of allies at once so natural and so powerful, and not to carry on the warfare by the mere efficacy of their own ministry and force of their own eloquence. I cannot help being of opinion, that if ever Christianity vanquishes the superstitions of Hindostan, it must direct its attacks from the strong holds which the St. Thomé and other ancient Christian sects have already established in that country.

The casts and hereditary prejudices of the Hindoos are by no means the only or even the most powerful obstacles which the propagators of the Christian faith in India have to surmount. The habitual corruptness and lasciviousness of this sensual people are impediments to the adoption of Christianity certainly not less difficult to be overcome. In a country where polygamy has been practised from time immemorial, and where it is accounted no dishonour for a man to add to his wives as many concubines as his haram can contain or his finances support, it is not to be supposed that a faith which inculcates chastity and matrimonial fidelity will be very favourably received. The Brahmins have more motives than their spiritual controul and temporal rule over the rest of their countrymen for resisting the progress of the Christian missionaries; they have the loss of privileges to dread which their own faith authorizes, but that of their adversaries disclaims with abhorrence—of troops of females attached to the service of their temples—and of secret interviews with women of almost every condition in the districts over which they hold sway.

The loose morals of the East are not, like the vicious indulgences of our own country, the effect of wealth, youth, or accidental circumstances. They belong to all ranks and all ages; they are the effect not of transient but of permanent causes, which are inseparable from the climate of the country and the temperament of the inhabitants. In all the tropical districts of Asia a plurality of wives has as invariably prevailed in every age of the world, as it has been uniformly discountenanced in the more temperate regions of Europe. The causes of this remarkable diversity of practice is founded in nature, and may be very satisfactorily pointed out. In hot climates women are marriageable at eight, nine, or ten years of age. In Arabia and the Indies it is common for women to bear children at nine or ten; and the same is the case in Persia and the kingdoms of the African Moors. Before they are twenty, the women of these countries exhibit marks of
old

old age, and they cease child-bearing at thirty or forty. It cannot, therefore, be expected that a man should confine himself for life to the society of a single female helpmate. His constitutional desires prompt him to a very different conduct: his first wife grows old and loses her charms while he is yet in the vigour of life; he, therefore, naturally seeks for another, and thinks that he is guilty of no injustice if he leaves his first partner in the undisturbed possession of his house and the superintendence of her children. Neither is there much chance that when the charms of the eastern ladies have faded, they will be able to retain their empire over their husbands by the refinement of their manners and the power of their accomplishments. They are married while they are mere children, and their beauty begins to fade at the time that their reason has come to maturity. In them, therefore, we can never find the united attraction of personal and intellectual charms; and it is to be expected that the cultivation of the mind will be neglected, because, before it can be resorted to, their characteristic attraction is for ever fled. In such countries, therefore, the women are treated with little respect, and kept in a state of constant dependence; for reason is insufficient to procure them in their old age a deference which their youthful charms could not procure.

In temperate climates the women are on every account placed in a more enviable situation: they are not marriageable till a more advanced age; their attractions are longer in ripening, and do not decay by any means so soon. In them, therefore, the empire of reason and of beauty is found at the same period; they are the companions, and not the slaves of their husbands; their youth is the same with that of their lords, and they do not grow old sooner than *they* do. In such countries, therefore, men are naturally contented with a single wife.

It is not, then, in the luxuriousness of Asia that we are to seek for the sole cause of the general prevalence of polygamy. The reasons of this practice are more deeply founded in nature, and cannot be so easily surmounted. They are such as to have fostered the practice from the earliest ages of the world to the present time, and will probably continue it so long as the physical laws of nature continue unchanged. If such be the case, it is clearly the intention of the Author of the universe that such a practice should have prevailed in these regions of the globe; and it is vain for us to talk of its immorality, its indelicacy, or its inexpediency. To have more than a single wife in Europe may be both inexpedient and immoral; since a single female partner, if she be well chosen, is better suited to promote the happiness of a husband and the purposes of matrimony, than a haram as well stocked as that of the Grand Seignior. But if in Asia women cease to be fit for wives long before men cease to be fit for husbands, it is absurd to expect that the matrimonial constancy of Europe can be transferred to that more torrid climate.

This universal prevalence of polygamy in India and throughout the east has hitherto opposed an almost insurmountable barrier to the diffusion of Christianity; a truth which was long ago observed by the

celebrated Montesquieu, who mentions it as one of the reasons which enables Mahometanism to establish itself with so much facility in Asia, and with so much difficulty in Europe; while Christianity so easily maintains itself in Europe, but can scarcely find admittance into Asia." (*L'esprit des loix*, l. 16, c. 2.) Indeed, if no allowance be made for the natural, and, I believe, incurable propensities of the eastern nations in this particular, I greatly fear that the Christian religion will never have that complete success and universal prevalence in these populous regions, which is so ardently to be desired by every one who enjoys the inestimable benefit of its revelation.

It is surely worth while, then, calmly to enquire whether the profession of Christianity be altogether incompatible with the practice of polygamy in those countries, at least, where the unalterable laws of nature so strongly countenance it, and where it is so deeply rooted that we can scarcely hope ever to see it extirpated. It is, indeed, very commonly maintained, that this practice is expressly prohibited in the gospel, and cannot, therefore, be countenanced by those who take the gospel for their sole rule of conduct; I am of opinion, however, that this is an assertion for which competent evidence can hardly be produced. It is well known that polygamy was in all ages practised by the Jews, and is no where forbidden by Moses in the promulgation of the law, or by the prophets who successively appeared under the Jewish dispensation. As this is the case, it can scarcely be supposed that, had it been the intention of our Saviour to prohibit a practice which had so long prevailed unrestrained among the Hebrews, he would not have conveyed his prohibition in the most direct and positive terms. I am not, however, aware that any such direct prohibition is to be found in the whole of the New Testament. It is, indeed, asserted, that the saying of Christ recorded by Matthew (xix. 9.) amounts to a direct prohibition of polygamy; "Whoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery." But such is certainly not the obvious and natural signification of the words. It is not the taking an additional wife that is here prohibited, but the putting away one woman for the purpose of cohabiting with another, which is a manifest piece of injustice to her that was first married, and who has always been considered as the most completely entitled to the rights of a wife. When St. Paul says, "A bishop should be blameless, the husband of *one* wife," I understand the precept to be directed to the bishop, and to none but him. Many good reasons may be urged for restricting the clergy to the number of their wives, although we should not go the length of the Catholics, who will allow them no wives at all. But greater indulgencies may reasonably be expected by the laity, without, in any material degree, infringing the rules of strict morality. The very wording of St. Paul's precept seems to imply, that more wives than one were not only commonly sought after by his countrymen, but might be sought after without scandal; for if this be not his meaning, why does he restrict a bishop,

bishop, and none but a bishop, to a single wife; and why does not his prohibition extend to all men?

From what I have advanced, it may appear at least *doubtful* whether polygamy be positively prohibited in the gospel, and whether it be not among those things which are left to the cognizance of human laws, and may be adopted or rejected without blame, according to peculiarities of situation, climate, or temperament. If, indeed, polygamy be the dictate of nature in certain regions of the globe, and cannot be abolished without imposing a greater restraint on human propensities than mankind, even in a state of refinement, are able to endure, it is not reasonable to suppose that it is altogether inconsistent even with the pure morality of the gospel of truth. The precepts of Christianity are, indeed, at utter enmity with vice, and prohibit in the most unequivocal terms whatever is grossly sensual or profane; but when rationally interpreted, they have never been found hostile to reasonable indulgencies, and the moderate enjoyment even of the good things which belong only to the present world: they equally discourage the absurd self-denial of the ascetic, and the licentious revelling of the libertine. It would, in truth, be but a sorry testimony of the divine origin of a system of doctrines, to find that they inculcated observances which were irreconcilable with the unalterable laws of nature in the most extensive and populous districts of the earth.

Neither does polygamy, as practised in the east, appear to be so grievous an evil as many of our refined moralists have been inclined to represent it. Finding that in Europe the number of males brought into the world is not less, or is even a little greater than that of the females, they are disposed to infer that a like proportion must hold in every region of the globe, and that consequently when one man assumes to himself the exclusive property of six or seven females, it must follow that half a dozen of his fellow men must be contented without any female at all. I apprehend, however, that this conclusion rests upon *data* which are more than questionable. It has never been proved that the proportion of male and female children is the same in Asia as in Europe; nor, indeed, does this seem to admit of any very satisfactory proof; for where are the authentic documents, the *parish registers* and *obituaries* upon which such a proof must be established? Some travellers have positively asserted, that in the eastern countries the number of females greatly exceeds that of the males; and I am inclined to believe that their assertion is founded in truth, for I know of no traveller that has ever noticed a scarcity of females in any eastern country, or, indeed, in any quarter of the world, nor of any who has ever met with men who complained that they were unable to find wives on account of the unreasonable monopoly of their richer brethren.

In Hindostan, the country to which these observations were intended more particularly to refer, men are generally contented with two, or, at most, three or four wives. The second is seldom espoused till
the

the first has lost her bloom, and is not suffered to supplant her predecessor in the management of domestic concerns, or precedence in the economy of the household. The first wife is always the mistress of the family, and is considered as entitled to some deference and respect from her more juvenile partner in the affection of the husband. By this means much cause of jealousy and rivalry is removed; and the senior wife finds consolation in the exercise of power, for the more transient influence which she had derived from her charms. Some jealousy and domestic strife will no doubt occur among the female members of such a family; but evils of this kind are inseparable from every institution of society; they arise between sister and sister, brother and brother, and even between parents and children; but they have never, on that account, been urged as a sufficient cause for dissolving the natural union of families, and separating into distinct dwellings the closely united members of which they consist.

Your humble servant,

PHILOCAMUS.

CUSTOM OF THE HORKEY.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

IN reading in your last number, the description given by *Amicus*, of the custom of "*Marling*," which is supposed to be confined to Cheshire and Lancashire, it occurred to me that there was a resemblance between the peculiarities of Marling and the manners of rural life in *Suffolk*, as delineated by Bloomfield, in his "*Wild Flowers*," under the head of "*The Horkey*." He says, "In *Suffolk* husbandry, the man who (whether by merit or sufferance, I know not) goes foremost through the harvest with the scythe or the sickle, is honoured with the title of "*Lord*," and at the Horkey, or harvest-home feast, collects what he can, for himself and brethren, from the farmers and visitors, to make a "*frolic*" afterwards, called "*the largess-spending*." By way of returning thanks, though, perhaps, formerly of much more, or of different signification, they immediately leave the seat of festivity, and with a very long and repeated shout of "*a largess*," the number of shouts being regulated by the sums given, seem to wish to make themselves heard by the people of the surrounding farms." Therefore the harvest "*Lord*" of *Suffolk*, with its "*largess*" and noisy conviviality, is very similar to the "*Lord of the Pit*," the shoutings, and the ale-house carousal, described by *Amicus*.

It appears from the extract given by Bloomfield, of Sir Thomas Brown's Tract on Languages, that "the *Danes* remained in the East Angle counties for fifty years, upon agreement, and have left many families

families in it, and that in his time (1686) there were a number of words of common use in Norfolk and the East Angle counties, which had no general reception in other parts of England.

My conjectures are, that these words are derived from the Danes; that the local peculiarities described by Bloomfield, are of Danish origin; and that the custom of "Marling" is probably an offspring from the same ancient and uncouth parent.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

A CONSTANT READER.

Oct. 10, 1808.

ON THE DIFFERENT TENDENCY OR SPRING OBSERVABLE
IN SOME KIND OF PLANTS.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

IN the last number of the Athenæum is an observation relating to the instinct exemplified in various plants, in which the writer seems to suppose a discriminating power, or a faculty in making their choice, in approaching to or withdrawing themselves from other plants, or adjoining substances.

I see no wonder in the scarlet runners (mentioned by your correspondent) not flourishing under a thick hedge of privet and lilac, as very few are the plants that do not improve, the more airy and detached their situation is from others; nor can they take so good hold of a growing shrub, which is often in motion from the effect of the wind; neither is the surface of the stem of the shrub, which has often a sort of varnish on it, so able to hold the stalk of the runner, which is armed with a sort of hairy barb, to assist it in catching support; the plant, as any other would, not having air and room under the hedge, recoiled from it, and meeting with a suitable substance, as was the dry sticks, according to its nature, entwined round it.

But there is a more remarkable peculiarity in running plants, which is the positive tendency of each species of plants of twisting always one way, round the support which either accidentally or intentionally is placed near them. The scarlet-flowering bean twists round its support against the sun (as is the common way of expression), or the same way a common corkscrew is made, or as you would move the corkscrew round a twig, or any other small substance, with the point upwards. The hop plant, on the contrary, twists the contrary way; that is to say, with the sun: any attempt to make it twist in the other direction will not be attended with success. The small wires or tendrils of the vine, of the cucumber, briony, &c. will be found upon examination of each species to twist in one certain direction, which may be best observed when the plant is in an early state.

How far this can be called instinct, or proceeding from the stimuli of other bodies exciting their actions, I know not. Did the influence
of

of the sun only occasion it, one would suppose the bean and the hop plant would both shoot one way, which is not the fact. Were they originally natives of different sides of the equator, which retain their original projection in following the sun daily by making one revolution round their support each day? or are we to suppose it an inherent spring in each seed or plant first stamped on it by its Creator?

Should any of your numerous readers make their observations on this different tendency or spring which is so easily observable, it will gratify the writer of this, as many gardeners seem ignorant of this peculiarity existing, or treat it as not worthy notice.

Something like this appears in the spiral twist of many sea-shells, which will be found to imitate the parent shell without deviation.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

D. H.

Twickenham, Middlesex, Oct. 10, 1808.

DEGREES IN UNIVERSITIES.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

IN looking over the Gentleman's Magazine for September, the following passage in p. 710 attracted my particular attention.

"A. M. it has been humbly thought, was appropriated to Cambridge and Oxford men; but, on looking over a new publication the other day, in which the author calls himself A. M., I enquired of which university he was, and was answered, "of Glasgow;" so that I see the Medical levelling principle is coming into Arts and Divinity, which has long been in Physic. If the two universities are, as they are called, the two eyes of the kingdom, their sight must be much affected at seeing their privileges invaded in this manner." All this astonished me not a little, and, with the assistance of my spectacles (which the approaches of old age now compel me occasionally to have recourse to) I read it over again and again before I could be convinced that my eyes had not deceived me. But my wonderment was nothing abated by the conviction that I had read aright, for I had always humbly conceived that *every* university (regularly constituted by charter) had a right to confer academic honours from B.A. to D.D. on those esteemed "the most worthy," and that the Graduates of every university were mutually recognized by all similar establishments.

Perhaps the being myself a No University man, and consequently but little skilled in academic etiquette, may have occasioned my entertaining that opinion as correct, which is really not so; if such is my unfortunate situation, I most earnestly desire to be set right, and therefore, with your permission, would request that some one of your literary friends, who is skilled in academic usages and courtesies, would inform us whether the opinion of Mr. Urban's correspondent, or of your's, is the most correct, by replying to the following queries.

From

From the first revival of science in the west, has it not been the custom, and now by prescription become the right of every university, to confer degrees on whoever they may esteem deserving of literary honours?

Have not degrees so conferred been mutually recognized by every similar establishment, of whatever clime, or nation, or government, or language?

Have the learned bodies of Cambridge and Oxford ever set up any exclusive claim to the distribution of academic honours (or to that of M. A. *only*, which, after all, is, perhaps, the whole that is meant in the paragraph quoted); if they have, has the claim been recognized by the republic of science, or by any individual establishment?

Replies to the above will probably gratify no small number of your admirers, as well as your &c.

TOXOPHILES.

Soho, Oct. 5, 1803.

LETTER FROM MR. DYER.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

I AM obliged to your correspondent E, for setting me right concerning the person who presented Wickliffe's Bible to St. John's College, in the university of Oxford, and for his manner of doing it, in admitting that the error was but a slight one. The truth, indeed, is, that book was not the subject of my inquiry: I did but incidentally mention what I had very cursorily examined. Had that MS. been the subject of my paper, I should have been more minute in my enquiries. I had perused Wickliffe's Bible in this library some time since, and concerning its donor, as I had made no memorandum, I spoke from recollection. It occurred to me, that a member of the society informed me, if I recollect right, that the book was one of those given by Laud; and an Oxford antiquary, not over remarkable, I own, for his correctness, has so expressed himself, as might easily have led one, speaking from memory, to the same conclusion. However, your correspondent is, I find, right: and (as I have collected) from his local situation, and his well-known acquaintance with the books in St. John's College Library, was likely to be so.

Your correspondent says, "there is a MS. of the Testament (meaning Wickliffe's Translation of the New Testament) at Emanuel College." There are three copies of a Translation, ascribed to Wickliffe, in Emanuel College Library; one a folio copy, comprehending the Old and New Testament, as that in St. John's College Library in Oxford does: the other two contain only the New Testament, like that in the Library of Worcester Cathedral. Whether they are copies of the same version, though somewhat differently translated, I cannot now ascertain, not being now on the spot to examine; but I remember well, that they differ much from each other.

This

This circumstance I notice here, to guard against a misconception of what was said in a former paper. I said that Matth. iii. 4. *αγκυδης*, Locustæ, Locusts, was translated, hony soukis. Now I recollect, that on turning to this passage in the folio copy in Emanuel College Library, it read honysoklis, or honysocles; I forget which; and so, *probably*, it will be found to read in the folio copy in St. John's College Library, and others. I recollect, *also*, seeing the same word, Locustæ, translated in the *small* copies in Emanuel Library, containing only the New Testament, *hony soukis*, in the same manner as it reads in the copy belonging to Worcester Cathedral Library. Bishop Wilson also has noticed* this reading, hony soukis, in Wickliffe's translation.

As some of your readers may probably consult the passage, and find a translation ascribed to Wickliffe read honysoklis, or honysoclis, they will please to take this explanation of the matter, so far as what was said in my former paper is concerned, and they will perceive that I was strictly correct.† Even if your correspondent E. had not given me a sort of tap on the shoulder, it was my intention to have noticed the above circumstance, in some future postscript.

Yours, &c.

G. DYER.

Overbury, Oct. 1808.

* Bishop Wilson, in Loco.

† The meaning of both words is the same, and both come from the same Saxon origin, Sucan, to suck. Hence, Sucenge, suckling.—Vide LYE.

Succus melleus, quoniam ex floribus hujus herbæ exugi potest aliquantulum succi dulcis instar mellis.—Minshæus.

Wickliffe, then, supposed the *αγκυδης*, Locustæ, locusts, to be plants or wild flowers; and it is the opinion of many, that they were the fruit of the Locust-tree, or tops of plants. However, it is well known, that the Insect called the Locust is used for food in the east: and Dr. Shaw supposes these insects to be mentioned here. See his Travels or Observations relating to several parts of Barbary and the Levant: but these matters are only mentioned en passant, and belong not to this place.

CLASSICAL DISQUISITIONS.

SOPHOCLES.

The superior merits of Æschylus soon consigned to oblivion the rude performances of his predecessors and contemporaries. His own fame was in some degree obscured by that of Sophocles, his successor and rival, who to loftiness of sentiment and pomp of language added order, proportion, and elegance, a skillful arrangement of circumstances, and natural delineation of character; and carried the tragic art to the utmost height which it attained among the Greeks.

Sophocles was the son of Sophilus, an Athenian citizen. By some ancient writers, quoted by the anonymous Greek biographer of the poet, his father is represented as engaged in some mechanical employment. This the biographer himself thinks improbable, from the high

high stations of dignity which Sophocles attained in public life, and because no traces of the fact are found in the comic writers, who would not have failed to take advantage of it as a topic of ridicule and reproach. From the general testimony of ancient writers it appears probable, that the father of Sophocles lived in opulence, and that his son received a suitable education. He was, says Pliny, "*principē loco genitus Athenis.*"*

Colonus, a village nearly contiguous to Athens, and remarkable for a temple dedicated to the equestrian Neptune, claims the honour of his birth. This place of his residence he has celebrated in his play entitled, *Œdipus Coloneus*, to which circumstance Cicero beautifully alludes in the introduction to the fifth book of the treatise "*De Finibus*," the scene of which is placed in the vicinity. "*Me ipsum huc modo venientem convertebat ad sese Coloneus ille locus, cujus incola Sophocles ob oculos versabatur, quem scis quam admirer, quamque eo delecter; me quidem ad altioremem memoriam Œdipodis huc venientis, et illo mollissimo carmine, quænam essent ipsa hæc loca requirerentis, species quædam commovit, inanis scilicet, sed commovit tamen.*"

The birth of Sophocles is placed about the commencement of the fifth century before the Christian æra. Respecting the precise year chronologers are not agreed. According to the custom of his country, he devoted his youth to gymnastics and music, and was crowned as victor in each of these arts. Lamprus, whose name is celebrated among the ancients, was his instructor in the latter. After the naval battle of Salamis, he is said to have danced naked round a trophy erected by the Athenians in honour of their victory, having his limbs anointed with oil, and playing on the lyre.

Receiving tragedy from Æschylus, he introduced into it various innovations and improvements. Contrary to the custom of former poets, he rarely acted in person, on account of the weakness of his voice. He changed the number of performers of which the Chorus consisted. He first introduced three actors on the stage at once, and invented the decorations of scenery. It is true that in some of the remaining pieces of Æschylus we find three characters at the same time on the stage, but it is conjectured with probability† that Sophocles was the author of the improvement, which was adopted by Æschylus in his later productions. Some unimportant changes were introduced by Sophocles in the dress of his actors, and he is said to have adapted the characters of his dramas to the talents of his performers.

He gained many victories in the public exhibitions of dramatic performances, and when disappointed of the first, never failed to obtain the second prize of merit. In his first contest, being competitor with Æschylus, while yet a youth, he was honoured with the victory. The circumstances were remarkable. On the representation of the pieces, a tumult arose among the spectators. The archon Aphepsio did not

VOL. IV.

3 H

appoint

* xxxvii. 2.

† Tyrwhitt in Aristot. poet. 132.

appoint the arbiters in the usual manner by lot, but when Cimon, with his colleagues in military command, appeared on the theatre to offer the customary libations to the god, he ordered them not to depart, and administering to them an oath, directed them to pass judgment on the merit of the rival performances. Sophocles was declared victor, and Æschylus, who had long maintained possession of the stage, indignant, it is said, at the success of a youthful competitor, after a short time quitted Athens, and retired to Gela, in Sicily, where he died.*

At the age of fifty-seven, a few years before the commencement of the Peloponnesian war, Sophocles was appointed general in a petty war against Ancea, a city of Caria. He was the colleague of Pericles, but the circumstance of his command, it has been observed, does not prove his possession of military talents, but only that he was one of the ten generals appointed annually by lot. Accordingly we hear nothing of his exploits.

An anecdote is preserved by Athenæus† respecting Sophocles, which is to be referred to this period, and is worth relating, as it affords a specimen of the table-talk of the Greeks, and may be regarded as authentic. It is contained in an extract from a work of Ion the Chian poet, entitled, *Επιδημιαί*, which has long perished, containing an account of illustrious strangers with whom the author had conversed. When Sophocles was proceeding with the Athenian fleet on an expedition against the Samians, he lodged at Chios in the house of Hermecilaus; and being naturally disposed, says the writer, during the pleasures of the banquet, to mirth and hilarity, as he jested rather freely with a boy who presented the cup, he caused the youth to blush, on which he observed to the guests, that the poet Phrynichus had well said,

Λαμπύι δ' ἐπὶ πορφύρεαῖς παρῆνισι φῶς ἔρως.

“The light of love shines on his purple cheeks.” Then an Eretrian, present at the banquet, who was by profession a grammarian, thus addressed himself to the poet: “You are, indeed, well skilled in poetry, O Sophocles, yet Phrynichus did not express himself well, when he described the cheeks of the beautiful youth as purple, for if a painter should stain the cheeks of this boy with purple, he would no longer appear beautiful. It is not proper, therefore, to compare what is beautiful, to that which would not appear such in nature.” Sophocles smiled, and replied to the Eretrian, “This expression of Simonides then does not please you, though it is judged by the Greeks to be well applied,

Πορφύρεα ἀπὸ στόματος ἴιστα φωναὶ παρδίους.

“The virgin uttering her voice from her purple lips.” You are offended also with the poet for saying, *χρυσόκομαν Ἀπολλῶνα*, for if a painter

* Plutarch in Cimon.

† xiii. 603.

painter should represent the hair of the god as golden instead of black, the picture would be disapproved. So also when the poet says, "Ροδοδακτυλος—for if any one should dye the fingers of a rose colour, he would represent the hands of a purple-dyer, and not of a beautiful woman." The laugh was turned against the Eretrian, and he was abashed by the rebuke (τῇ ἐπιγέγραπται). Sophocles then resumed his discourse to the youth, and having devised a stratagem against him, boasted to the guests, that though his colleague Pericles said of him, that he could write poems, but could not command an army, yet he had shewn himself able to practice a stratagem with success. With this and similar playful discourse he amused the guests; but, says Ion, in political affairs he was neither skilful nor active, but resembled other honest Athenians, ἀλλ' ὥς αὖ τις τῶν χρηστῶν Ἀθηναίων, "quod quidem animal," observes a learned commentator on the story, "haud contemneudum est." It does not appear that Pericles was now present; it was, however, on an occasion not very dissimilar that the poet received from his colleague the reproof recorded by Cicero: "Prætozem, Sophocle, decet non solum manus, sed etiam oculos abstinentes habere."*

Sophocles lived in extreme old age to experience the curse of filial ingratitude. His son Iophon, jealous, it is said, of the preference shewn by his father to a younger brother, instituted a legal suit against him, as incapable, from the infirmities of age, of the management of his affairs. To refute the charge, the aged poet recited before the judges his play of *Œdipus Coloneus*, which he had recently composed, and was acquitted by their unanimous suffrage.

The manner of his death is related in various ways, and the different accounts, which all partake of the marvellous, destroy the credibility of each other. Callipides the actor, according to one author, sent him a bunch of grapes, in eating which he was choaked. Another relates, that while reciting his *Antigone*, meeting with a long sentence which had no proper pause, his breath failed, and he expired. A third account says, that being proclaimed victor on the representation of the same play, he expired through excess of joy. He died in the year 406 B. C.

A Spartan army being in the neighbourhood of the city at the time of his death, his remains could not be conveyed with safety to his paternal sepulchre, when Bacchus, we are told, appeared in a dream to the Lacedæmonian general, directing that the body should be suffered to pass freely. The Lacedæmonians, in obedience to this command, permitted the funeral to be performed without molestation; an honourable testimony, if there be any truth in the story, of respect for literature and genius.

On his monument, says the Greek biographer, was represented a Siren, or a swallow (χελιδων), or, as Henschke† ingeniously conjectures, a Κελιδων, a word first employed by Pindar to denote a fabulous being resembling a Siren.

According

* de Off. l. 40.

† *Analecta critica*, p. 8.

According to the grammarian Aristophanes, Sophocles composed a hundred and thirty plays, of which, however, fifteen were regarded as spurious. Suidas makes the number to be a hundred and twenty-three. Fragments of most of these remain, and are collected by Brunck. A few additional fragments are noticed by Larcher,* which may be usefully transferred by a future editor.

The ancient writers commonly speak in high terms of the character and private virtues of Sophocles. The mildness of his temper, and his pleasing manners in social intercourse, are said to have gained and attached to him many friends. It is recorded by Plato, that when far advanced in age, instead of murmuring at the infirmities incident to that period, he rather congratulated himself on his escape from the ferocious dominion of the appetites and passions, which had enslaved him in his youth. Aristophanes lays to his charge avarice, the vice of Simonides.

Εκ του Σοφοκλεους γιγνεται Σιμωνιδης.

• • • • • γερων αν και σαπρος
Κερδης εκατι καν επι ριπος πλεισι.

Aristoph. Pax. 695.

Of the numerous pieces composed by Sophocles, only seven have descended to us, the Ajax, Electra, Œdipus Tyrannus, Antigone, Œdipus Coloneus, Trachiniæ, and Philoctetes. Sophocles is generally, and, we think, justly considered as the chief of the Greek dramatic poets. The characters which he delineates are various, distinct, and well supported. His sentiments are adapted with propriety to his subject and characters. Forsaking that lofty strain of thought which Æschylus affected, he has descended to those common and natural feelings, which can alone impart the interest which it is the object of the drama to produce. His language is forcible and poetical, and free from that pomp of constant metaphor which loads the pages of Æschylus. The nature of the fables to which the Greek tragic poets were limited, necessarily renders the plots more simple than accords with modern taste and practice, and the tales of mythology have in most instances ceased to be interesting, yet the plots of Sophocles are usually constructed with as much skill as the nature of his materials would permit. The parts are well connected, and bear a just proportion to each other. Of the characters, the most striking, perhaps, are, Ajax, Electra, Œdipus, Antigone, Deianira, and Philoctetes. The speeches of Tecmessa and Ajax,† when the former attempts to reconcile her husband to life, and the latter appears for a season to relent, and lay aside his deadly purpose, show the hand of a master. The Œdipus† Tyrannus and Philoctetes probably combine in a greater

* In his notes on Herodotus.

† A beautiful translation of them is inserted in a former number of the Athenæum, vol. ii. 153.

a greater degree the various elements of dramatic excellence than any other productions of the ancient stage.

Sophocles was first published at Venice, 1502, by Aldus, to whom literature is indebted for the first appearance of many of the best Greek authors. This edition was taken from good manuscripts, and is valuable and accurate. It is stiled by Brunck, "*præstantissima omnium editio, quæ majorem quam ceteræ omnes auctoritatem habet, et plus quam quævis alia fide digna est.*"

From this were chiefly taken the two Juntine editions (Flor. 1522 and 1547, 4to.) and that of Colinæus, Paris, 1528.

There are two editions by Camerarius, Hagenoæ, 1534, Basil, 1556, and several from the press of Brabachius at Frankfort.

The edition printed at Paris, 1553, by Adrian Turnebus, is the basis of most of the succeeding editions till that of Brunck. It was taken from a MS. revised by Demetrius Triclinius, and formerly possessed a high reputation. It has, however, appeared on examination, that the readings of Triclinius are inferior to those of the Aldine edition, and that he took unwarrantable liberties with his author, especially in the lyric parts, to adapt them to his notions of the metre.

An edition of Sophocles was printed by H. Stephens, at Paris, 1568.

A small and now rare edition was printed at Antwerp, 1579, by Plantin. The editor was Canter, who bestowed considerable attention on the arrangement of the metres, in which he was followed by the succeeding editors.

Other editions we omit till that of Johnson, of which two volumes were printed at Oxford, 1705, and a third at London, 1746. This edition has been several times reprinted for the use of schools, but not always with the correctness which is desirable. The merits of the editor are scanty.

A splendid edition was published at Paris, 4to. 1781, 2 vols. begun by Capperonnier and completed by Vauvilliers. This edition has not attained much reputation.

Former editions are nearly superseded by that of Brunck, which has appeared once in a quarto and twice in an octavo form, Argentorat. 1786, 1789. It is formed principally on the basis of the Aldine edition, and adopts many of those improvements which have been pointed out by the diligence of modern criticism. It has been lately reprinted at Oxford.

An edition was printed at Oxford, 1800, 3 vols. 8vo. with the Scholia, from the papers of Dr. Musgrave. It is an unfinished but valuable performance.

The edition of Bothe, Lips. 1806, is executed with the same boldness or rashness as his *Æschylus*. It contains all the notes of Brunck.

An edition is expected from Beck. Several of the plays have been well published separately by Erfurdt, who intends to complete a critical edition.

The

The scholia were first published separately at Rome, 1518. Those of Triclinius were published by Turnebus. Both are annexed to many editions.

D.

ACCOUNTS OF, AND EXTRACTS FROM, RARE AND
CURIOUS BOOKS.

THE HISTORIE OF HENRY THE SEVENTH, AS FAR AS
RELATES TO BOSWORTH FIELD, BY CHARLES ALEYN.*

The tale of Bosworth Field would furnish a fine subject for the lay of a minstrel. It abounds with strong incident and variety of character; the time to which it relates was turbulent and unquiet, and the scenes which it recalls to our view are all well adapted to poetical description. Nor is there, perhaps, an event recorded in our annals, more important in its consequences than this; it involves the fall of a bloody tyrant, the extinction of the long and fatal feud of the Roses, and the establishment of a new dynasty on the throne of England.

The poem before us appeared in 1638. It commences with a detail of Richard's crimes to obtain the crown, the sacrifice of Grey, Rivers, Hastings, and the murder of the young princes in the tower. The tyrant is represented as suspecting a plot between the dowager queen and lady Stanley, the mother of Richmond, to unite him with the princess Elizabeth in marriage, which he takes strong measures to prevent. Buckingham, his favourite, revolts, but is soon discomfited, and Richard procures his final overthrow by bribing one Banister, his servant, to betray him. Earl Richmond sails from France, but returns on learning the fate of Buckingham. The daily flight of English noblemen to join the earl in Bretagne highly enrages the king, and he offers a rich reward to have his rival murdered. The author here insinuates that the earl's forfeited estates were to pay for his assassination, and thus Richard bargained for the lion with the lion's skin. Peter Landoise undertakes the deed; but his purpose is detected by the vigilance of Morton, and Henry flies to the court of France in disguise. Richard, informed of this, dismisses all apprehensions of invasion and lulls himself in security, having discharged his fleet and distributed his Welch troops on the coast. This measure has the effect

* All that I can learn of this poet is, that he belonged to Sidney College, Cambridge; was an assistant in the school of Thomas Farnaby, the grammarian; and afterwards tutor to the son of the learned Edward Shelburne. He wrote two poems on Cresci and Poitiers, and a translation from Æneas Sylvius, called Euryalus and Lucretia. He died in 1641.

effect of weakening his party, and affords greater chance of success for his rival's enterprize.

News arrives in France that Richard means speedily to marry the lady Elizabeth, and Henry takes advantage of the alarm which this intelligence occasions among his adherents to hasten his expedition. He sails from Harfleur, lands at Milford, and being joined by his Welch friends in great numbers, crosses the Severn, and advances by rapid marches into the heart of the kingdom. The king, who at first treated this invasion as the contemptible inroad of a freebooter, is furious at the uncontroled progress of his adversary, and prepares to crush him at once. He sends to his adherents to muster their forces, and take the field immediately. Meanwhile the invading army, aided by strong reinforcements, continues its march. A mysterious occurrence is here told of Richmond. He wanders away from his troops in the night-time, and they are all in alarm to know what is become of him. Nothing, however, happens to him of consequence, and he joins them at day break. The obscurity of this incident might have furnished an episode, but the poet has made nothing of it. King Richard, oppressed with the weight of his guilt, passes a night of horrible dreams. He pitches his tent near Bosworth, and sends to lord Stanley (whose son he detains as hostage) with peremptory commands to advance with his men. Stanley refuses, and Richard gives orders for the youth's instant execution; but is prevailed on to suspend it until the battle be over. Having marshalled his army, he makes a spirited oration, expressing his contrition for the deeds by which he obtained the crown, but trusts that they will help him to defend it, as they can all bear testimony to the justice of his reign. He bids them fight manfully against this obscure Welchman and his French levy; to remember that every blow they receive is aimed not at them alone, but at their wives and children; that England itself is at stake in this combat; and that her fortune depends on their valour.

The order of Richmond's battle is next shewn, and the principal leaders pointed out. He is described as never having before been in the field, and as being quite a novice in war. He commences his harangue with a recapitulation of Richard's enormities, and trusts that the hour is now at hand when they shall all be avenged, and when justice shall be done to the oppressed. He exhorts his men to be confident of victory, and therefore to fight bravely, bearing in mind that there is no alternative for them but conquest or death.

Both armies, being now in sight of each other, advance rapidly. A great marsh lies between them, and Richmond manages to keep it on his right, by which manœuvre he has the sun on his back, and in the faces of his enemies. Richard observing this, breaks through the marsh, and the battle then begins by a brisk discharge of arrows, after which the armies come to close fight. Richmond's van is led by John earl of Oxford, that of the king by the old duke of Norfolk. The king and earl Henry command each his main body in person. The other leaders of note on both sides are severally described, all eager
in

in the cause for which they are engaged. Oxford observing how much the king has extended his line with a view to intimidate his foes, gives order during the engagement that no man shall move beyond a certain distance from his standard. This measure keeps Richmond's army concentrated, and the battle seems to slacken a little. At this moment lord Stanley, who has hovered at a distance with a body of 7000 men, makes a movement as if with the intent to join Richmond. The engagement is renewed with fresh fury on the part of the invaders; but the royal army is daunted, and fights reluctantly. Richard, who has all the while displayed the courage and might of a lion, now perceives the fortune of the day to incline toward his enemy. Foaming with rage, he rushes toward the thickest of the fight. They point out to him Richmond's standard and body-guard. He claps spurs to his steed, and darts like a thunderbolt upon them, strikes down sir William Brandon dead on the spot, unhorses sir John Cheney, and comes within sword's point of Henry, who prepares to engage him. The fate of the battle now hangs on a single blow; when a great shout is heard, and a torrent of troops rushes between them, led by sir William Stanley. Richard is surrounded on all sides, fights to the last, then falls covered with wounds, and buried among the dead bodies of his foes. The victory is soon after decided, the battle ceases, a *te deum* is sung, and earl Henry is proclaimed king of England on the field of battle.

The conclusion of the poem is eked out into a relation of Henry's progress to London, of his extreme caution in establishing his title to the crown, of his marriage, of the general pardon which he pronounced on his adversaries, and of the acts which he passed to quench and destroy the seeds of civil war.

The stanza of this poem is the same as that of Shakespeare's *Tarquin and Lucrece*, and resembles this in quaintness of expression and boldness of metaphor. In the opening, the approaching invasion is thus noted:

The sword of vengeance, which a single twine
Held over Richard's head, must soon drop downe,
With ruin at the point; the Eye divine
Hath spied a hand that must lop off his crowne.
Henry, like Meleager, must come o'er,
And combat with this Calydonian Bore.

Richard, in putting to death those whom he employs as instruments for his bloody purposes, observes the Machiavelian maxim,

Whom you do employ,
In mischief, when tis done, you must destroy.

He sends to threaten lord Stanley with the death of his son George, if he should withhold his power:

He

He answered, *he had more*, 'Twas nobly done,
To prove his faith by offering of his son.

In his harangue, the tyrant uses this strong expression :

Shut up your heartes to fear, but keepe your eyes
Open to danger.

The beginning of Richmond's oration is fanciful:

If punishment and sinne
Are borne at once, then cannot Richard dreame
But that in heaven, his hath for vengeance been.
For murders have loud voices, and the steame
Which fumes from blood, doth teare the clouds in sunder,
Such exhalations can breed nought but thunder.

The picture of the battle is strongly drawn, but it wants condensing. The progress of the story is perpetually interrupted by detached similes and far-fetched allegory. On the unhorsing of the standard-bearer, at which time the king is point to point with earl Henry, we have a series of seven or eight stanzas of moral reflections, and allusions to ancient history. This reminds one of Don Quixote's combat with the Biscayan. Then comes sir William Stanley with his men to separate the two chiefs, and put an end to the battle. Various other parts of the poem have the same fault, but it is no where so observable as here, in the heat of an engagement, when there is hardly time to pause and take breath.

The fall of Richard is well told:

And now I see him sinke: his eyes did make
A shot like falling starres; flash out, and done!
Groaning he did a stately farewell take,
And in this night of death set like the sun.

* * * * *

Here leave his dust incorporate with mould;
He was a king that challengeth respect;
Passe by his tombe in silence, as of old
They did their heroes' temples, and erect
An altar to oblivion, while I
Another build to Henry's memory.

This altar, however, is but loosely put together, and seems to be built of the refuse of the whole poem. We might suppose that the writer spent the strength of his genius on the battle, and wrote the conclusion before he recovered it.

On considering the historical records of the period to which this poem alludes, we are struck with the rapid succession of events, and

the sudden fall of the tyrant. Richmond sailed from Harfleur on the 30th of July, 1485, landed at Milford six days after, and on Saturday the 22d of August following was fought the memorable battle of Bosworth. The king's army consisted of 12,000 men, that of Richmond amounted to little more than 5000, but the forces of his step-father, lord Stanley, turned the scale in his favour. The battle began at two o'clock in the afternoon, and lasted about two hours; in which time there fell 4000 of the royal army. The loss of the victors was trifling. How nearly was our great poet's wish realized,

A kingdom for a stage, princes to act,
And monarchs to behold the swelling scene!

MEMOIRS OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

*Compositum jus fasque animi, sanctosque recessus
Mentis, et incoctum generoso pectus honesto.*

Pers.

It is equally the duty and the province of this miscellany to call the attention of our contemporaries to examples of departed worth, and to stimulate the exertions of those, whose intimacy with the deceased and whose knowledge of their characters at once animates and enables them to pourtray their merits with an exactness of drawing and strength of colouring, proportioned to the importance of the subject.

In no instance have we felt this duty more imperious, in no instance is the discharge of it more difficult, than when we find ourselves called upon to record the death of Mr. Professor Porson. His talents and attainments were exercised in a path of literature so rarely trodden, that few minds, except his own, could measure exactly the extent of his discoveries; and besides the difficulty of giving interest to a life of study, his early years were passed in an unusual degree of privacy. It would, therefore, be a task of peculiar nicety to state with accuracy the facts of his initiation into letters, and still more to develope with precision the effect those uncommon circumstances produced upon his growing understanding.

Having thus briefly stated the arduous nature of the duty imposed upon us, we nevertheless feel that it is our duty to attempt, at least in some degree, to trace the lineaments of this incomparable scholar's mind, and to point out the reasons for which we must consider his death as the most irreparable loss that classical literature has ever yet sustained.

The circumstances of his early education, and the more prominent incidents of his life, have been detailed with great ability in a periodical

cal publication,* by a writer, in whom the means of information have been combined with a most anxious and natural desire to pay a deserved tribute to the memory of a departed and most distinguished relative. Insufficient as the time has been to collect ampler materials, we cannot do justice to the subject more completely than by adopting this account as the *ground-work* of our notice, and subjoining such observations upon a character so remarkable, as an accurate study of his works, added to the impressions made by our own personal knowledge, has suggested to us upon this melancholy occasion.

“ Richard Porson was born at East Ruston, in Norfolk, on Christmas day, 1759; so that he was only in his 49th year. Every thing about this most eminent scholar, and particularly the circumstances which laid the foundation of that most inestimable memory, by which he was enabled to store his mind with all the riches of literature, ancient and modern, will become truly interesting to the world. He owed the blessing to the care and judgment of his father, Mr. Huggin Porson, who was parish-clerk of East Ruston, and who, though in humble life, and without the advantages himself of early education, laid the basis of his son's unparalleled acquirements. From the earliest dawn of intellect, Mr. Porson began the task of fixing the attention of his children, three sons and a daughter; and he had taught Richard, his eldest son, all the common rules of arithmetic, without the use of a book or slate, pen or pencil, up to the cube root, before he was nine years of age. The memory was thus incessantly exercised; and by this early habit of working a question in arithmetic by the mind only, he acquired such a talent of close and intense thinking, and such a power of arranging every operation that occupied his thought, as in process of time to render the most difficult problems, which to other men required the assistance of written figures, easy to the retentive faculties of his memory. He was initiated in letters by a process equally efficacious. His father taught him to read and write at one and the same time. He drew the form of the letter either with chalk on a board, or with the finger in sand; and Richard was made at once to understand and imitate the impression. As soon as he could speak he could trace the letters; and this exercise delighting his fancy, an ardour of imitating whatever was put before him was excited to such a degree, that the walls of the house were covered with characters which attracted notice, from their neatness and fidelity of delineation.

At

* Morning Chronicle, Thursday, October the 8th, 1808.—We of course adopt this, not merely as an authentic account, but as the production of an acute and vigorous mind. We have understood that there are one or two inaccuracies relating to some transactions at Cambridge—but we are sure they are quite involuntary; and if such be the case, we have no doubt that the author will correct them in the more detailed account which he promises, and which the world will expect from him with singular anxiety.

“At nine years of age, he and his youngest brother, Thomas, were sent to the village school, kept by a Mr. Summers, a plain but most intelligent and worthy man, who having had the misfortune in infancy to cripple his left hand, was educated for the purpose of teaching, and he discharged his duties with the most exemplary attention. He professed nothing beyond English, writing and arithmetic, with the rudiments of Latin—he was a good accountant and an excellent writing master. He perfected the Professor in that delightful talent of writing, in which he so peculiarly excelled; but which we are doubtful whether it was to be considered as an advantage or a detriment to him in his progress through life. It certainly had a considerable influence on his habits, and made him devote many precious moments to copying which might have been better employed in composition. It has been the means, however, of enriching his library with annotations, in a text the most beautiful, and with such perfect imitation of the original manuscript or printing, as to embellish every work which his erudition enabled him to elucidate. He continued under Mr. Summers for three years; and every evening during that time he had to repeat by heart to his father the lessons and tasks of the day; and this not in a loose or desultory manner, but in the rigorous order in which whatever he had been occupied about had been done; and thus again the process of recollection was cherished and strengthened, so as to become a quality of his mind. It was impossible that such a youth should remain unnoticed, even in a place so thinly peopled, and so obscure as the parish of East Ruston. The reverend Mr. Hewitt heard of his extraordinary propensities to study, his gift of attention to whatever was taught him, and the wonderful fidelity with which he retained whatever he had acquired. He took him and his brother Thomas under his care, and instructed them in the classics. The progress of both was great, but that of Richard was most extraordinary. It became the topic of astonishment beyond the district, and when he had reached his fourteenth year, had engaged the notice of all the gentlemen in the vicinity. Among others, he was mentioned as a prodigy to an opulent and liberal man, the late Mr. Norris, who after having put the youth under an examination of the severest kind, and from which an ordinary boy would have shrunk dismayed, sent him to Eton. This happened in the month of August, 1774, when he was in his 15th year: and in that great seminary, he, almost from the commencement of his career, displayed such a superiority of intellect; such facility of acquirement; such quickness of perception, and such a talent of bringing forward to his purpose all that he had ever read, that the upper boys took him into their society, and promoted the cultivation of his mind by their lessons, as well, probably, as by imposing upon him the performance of their own exercises. He was courted by them as the never-failing resource in every difficulty; and in all the playful excursions of the imagination, in their frolics, as well as in their serious tasks, Porson was the constant adviser and support. He used to dwell on this lively part of his youth with peculiar

cular complacency, and we have heard him repeat a drama which he wrote for exhibition in their long chamber, and other compositions, both of seriousness and drollery, with a zest that the recollection of his enjoyment at the time never failed to revive in him. We fear, however, that at this early age his constitution received a shock, which was soon after aggravated by the death of his worthy patron. An imposthume formed on his lungs, and he was threatened by a consumption. But it fortunately broke, and he recovered his health, though his frame was weakened.

"The death of Mr. Norris was the source of severe mortification to him; for though by the kindness of some eminent and liberal persons he was continued at Eton, he felt the loss he had sustained in the most poignant degree. But we do not mean (this day at least) to do more than trace the dates of his progress to the Professor's Chair. He was entered of Trinity College towards the end of 1777, and his character having gone before him to the University, he was from the first regarded as a youth whose extraordinary endowments would keep up and extend the reputation of the unrivalled society into which he had entered. Nor did he disappoint the hopes that had been formed of him. In every branch of study to which he applied himself, his course was so rapid as to astonish every competent observer. By accidents, which in a more detailed biographical article will be explained, he was drawn first to read in mathematics, in which, from his early exercises, he was so eminently calculated to shine, but from which he drew no benefit; and then by the prospect of a Scholarship, which, however, did not become vacant till long after, he sat down to the classics. In this pursuit he soon acquired undisputed pre-eminence. He got the medal of course, and was elected a Fellow in 1781. In 1785 he took his degree of Master of Arts: but long before the period had elapsed when he must either enter into holy orders or surrender his Fellowship, he had (after the most grave and deliberate investigation, to which he had brought all that acute gift of examination that has been made so perceptible in his letters to Mr. Archdeacon Travis) made up his mind on the subject of subscription. We are sure that his determination cost him many painful and laborious days and months of study. His heart and mind were deeply penetrated by the purest sentiments of religion; and it was a memorable and most estimable feature of his character, that in no moment the most unguarded (when that ardour of discussion, which alone led him to indulgence, had elevated his spirits) was he ever known to utter a single expression of discontent at the establishment, of derision of those who thought differently from himself, much less of profaneness or impiety. He was truly and actively pious—but it was of an order that admitted not of shackles. So early as 1788, he had made up his mind to surrender his Fellowship, though with an enfeebled constitution he had nothing to depend upon but acquirements that are very unprofitable to their owner. A Lay-fellowship, to be sure, might have secured his services to the cause of letters; but the disingenuous conduct of an individual

dividual withheld from him that resource. In 1791 his Fellowship ceased, and he was thrown upon the world without a profession, his feelings wounded by the mortifications he had suffered, and with a constitution little qualified to encounter the bustle of the world. Some private friends, however, stepped in, and soon after, he was elected Greek Professor of Cambridge, by an unanimous vote of the seven Electors. The distinction of this appointment was grateful to him. The salary is but 40*l.* a year. It was his earnest wish, however, to have made it an active and efficient office, and it was his determination to give an annual course of Lectures in the College, if rooms had been assigned him for the purpose. These Lectures, as he designed, and had in truth made preparations for them, would have been invaluable; for he would have found occasion to elucidate the languages in general, and to have displayed their relations, their differences, their near and remote connections, their changes, their structure, their principles of etymology, and their causes of corruption. If any one man was qualified for this gigantic task, it was Mr. Professor Porson; and if his wishes had not been counteracted, we know that he would have undertaken the labour.

“From this time, instead of lectures, he turned his thoughts to publication. His letters to Mr. Archdeacon Travis, as has been truly said, put the controversy on the disputed text to rest; and indeed it was the peculiar felicity of his mind, that whatever he undertook to elucidate he fixed for ever in the light.

“In 1795 he married Mrs. Lunan, the sister of Mr. Perry, of this paper, but who sunk under a decline in 1797, and from that time the Professor himself was so incessantly afflicted with a spasmodic asthma, as to interrupt him in every study to which he applied himself. Whether his sedentary habits served to bring it on we know not, but certainly very few men had accustomed themselves to such patient and continued toil. He had undertaken to make out and copy the almost obliterated manuscript of the invaluable Lexicon of Photius, which he had borrowed from the Library of Trinity College. And this he had with unparalleled difficulty just completed, when the beautiful copy which had cost him ten months of incessant toil, was burnt in the house of Mr. Perry, at Merton. The original being an *unique*, entrusted to him by his College, he carried with him wherever he went; and he was fortunately absent from Merton on the morning of the fire. Unruffled by the loss, he sat down without a murmur, and made a second copy as beautiful as the first. It is extant in his library, and is quite ready for the press. Of the plays of Euripides, which he published, the learned world has pronounced its judgment, and we reserve for another occasion, an account of this and his other literary labours. It may be pleasant for our readers, however, to know, that he has left an *Orestes* quite ready for the press.

“On the establishment of the London Institution, the Managers manifested their own discernment and love of letters, by selecting him to be their principal Librarian, an appointment for which he was peculiarly

cularly qualified, and if time and health had been allowed him, he would have made their library truly valuable. His own, which he has been gradually collecting for thirty years, he has enriched by annotations of such value and importance to literature, that we hope and trust, the whole will be placed in his own College, that it may forever be within the reach of those whom his example may arouse to similar pursuits, though they may despair of reaching equal attainments.

"We have said, that we should feel it our duty to correct some of the mis-statements that have gone forth, as to his habits of life, and as to the circumstances of his death; but we have scarcely left ourselves room after this hasty sketch (written since our return from paying the last duties of inconsolable friendship to his remains) to perform the task. Mr. Porson, as we have stated before, has, for the last eleven years, been the incessant victim of spasmodic asthma, during the agony of which he never went to bed, and in which he was forced to abstain from all sustenance. This greatly debilitated his body; and about a month ago he was afflicted by an intermittent fever. He had an unfortunate objection to medical advice, and he resorted to his usual remedy of abstinence; but on Monday, the 19th ult. he suffered an apoplectic stroke, from which he recovered only to endure a second attack the next day. He languished to the Sunday night, and expired without a struggle. The body was opened by his medical attendants, and they have given a report, ascribing his death "to the effused lymph "in and upon the brain, which they believe to have been the effect "of recent inflammation. The heart was sound, and the pericardium contained the usual quantity of lymph. The left lung had "adhesions to the pleura, and bore the marks of former inflammation. The right lung was in a perfect sound state." This is signed by Dr. Babington, Sir Wm. Blizard, Mr. Norris, Mr. Blizard, and Mr. Upton. In refutation of an idle falsehood about the form of his skull, they add, "that it was thinner than usual, and of hard consistence."

"Mr. Porson has left a sister living, an amiable and accomplished woman. She is the wife of Siday Hawes, Esq. of Coltishall, in Norfolk; they have five children; their eldest son is entered at Ben'et College, Cambridge. Henry, the second brother of the Professor, was settled in a farm in Essex, and died young, leaving three children. His brother Thomas kept a boarding-school at Fakenham, was an excellent scholar, and died in 1792 without issue—and his father, Mr. Huggin Porson, died in October 1806, in his 78th year. His mother died in 1784, aged 57. These few particulars may satisfy for the time the impatience of all those who knew his incomparable talents, but who were unacquainted with his private history. We shall hereafter speak of the character of his mind, and of the various attainments in which he had no rival."

The most remarkable among the intellectual powers of Richard Porson was unquestionably that of memory. It was at once obvious to every one who had the good fortune to be in his company, and it never ceased to excite the admiration of those who had most frequently an opportunity of conversing with him. Every thing he had read (and what was there worthy, or, indeed, unworthy of literary notice, which he had not read?)* appeared to be present to his mind with uncommon precision. Whensoever a subject connected with English, French, Latin, or Greek poetry was started, he would recite some brilliant and striking passage at considerable length in the words of the author. And in the latter language more especially, which was his favourite study, he was so completely master, not only of the words of the author in question, but of every circumstance relating to the words, that he would expatiate upon the various readings, and the points of grammar and criticism connected with them, in such a manner, as to produce the effect of a complete and well-digested Variorum Commentary. We remember to have heard him relate one or two incidents which occurred at different, although both early, periods of his life, which will illustrate this quality of his mind far better than any laboured detail.

When he was very young, perhaps at the time when he was under the care of Mr. Summers, returning to his father's cottage, he lost his way, and found shelter in the house of a little farmer, whose son, somewhat older than Porson, had just quitted school. With this boy Porson was to sleep; but instead of betaking himself to his slumbers, he began questioning his companion concerning what he had learned at school. He found him a most admirable arithmetician; and passed the night in proposing questions, which the other answered to his satisfaction as well as surprise; for at last he found him capable of multiplying 9 figures by 9 in his head, an operation which was quite familiar to our young Professor.

When at Eton, as he was going to his tutor's, to construe an Horace lesson preparatory to the business of school, one of the senior boys took Porson's Horace from him, and thrust into his hands some English book. The tutor called upon Porson to construe, and the other boys were much amused in considering the figure he would make in this emergency. Porson, however, who had Horace by heart before he
went

* Upon this subject we have been favoured with the following observations from the respectable writer, to whom we are already so greatly indebted for the knowledge of many interesting particulars.

"It was one of the peculiar traits of his mind that it rejected no aliment. He was equally well read in Joe Miller, and the Fathers, as in Greek literature. And in the very lowest, as well as highest branches of human learning, his memory was equally retentive. In his power over figures, though he was at an early age diverted from mathematics, Mr. P. never knew his equal. His quickness in bringing out the result of a most intricate and manifold calculation by mental working was magical. He had formed for himself a species of short-hand in figures (if we may use the term) that had the most astonishing brevity and truth."

went to Eton, knowing where the lesson was to begin, began without hesitation,

Mercuri facunde, nepos Atlantis :

and went on regularly, first reciting the Latin and then giving the Latin and English, as if he had really had the author before him. The tutor, perceiving some symptoms of astonishment as well as mirth amongst the other boys, suspected that there was something unusual in the affair, and inquired what edition of Horace Porson had in his hand. "I learned the lesson from the Delphin," replied his pupil, avoiding a direct answer. "That is very odd," replied the other, "for you seem to be reading in a different side of the page from myself. Let me see your book."—The truth was of course then discovered; but the master, instead of shewing any displeasure, wisely and kindly observed to the others, that he should be most happy to find any of them acquitting themselves as well in a similar predicament.

The sensible and well-written Memoir, above quoted, accounts in some degree for the extent to which this invaluable faculty of his mind was at length carried; but it certainly must be allowed that very strong original powers, and intense application in after life must have been required in order to secure the attainment of such a blessing. It should be remembered to the honour of the Professor, that he never appeared in any degree vain of this astonishing talent; and he once observed to the writer of this paper, "I never remembered any thing but what I transcribed three times, or read over six times at the least; and, if you will do the same, you will have as good a memory." Indeed he was at all times the warm advocate of a doctrine, which is as true as it is important in the conduct of education. He maintained that superiority of intellect and of attainments was not so much owing to a difference in the formation of the organs, as in the mode by which education was conducted. And although such a man as Porson could not have failed to have been distinguished, for the strength and acuteness of his understanding, under any circumstances, yet it cannot be doubted that the habits of his earlier years contributed much to that force and precision in his memory, for which he was so eminently distinguished.

There were other qualities in this great man's mind, although not so obvious to a common observer, nor so dazzling, yet even more rare and more useful. These were his extraordinary acuteness of discernment, and solidity of judgment; and these, added to his intense application and stupendous memory, made him, what the world perhaps never saw before, and, alas! can not soon see again, a COMPLETE CRITIC, in the most honourable and extended sense of that appellation. His reading was of course immense; he was an excellent French scholar; but in his native language, in the Latin, and in the Greek, he was most familiarly and profoundly versed. He had indeed applied the know-

ledge he had gained of the origin and structure of language in general, to all these dialects (if we may so express ourselves) of the universal language; and, had not his eminence in classical literature, by its uncommon lustre, obscured other attainments, he would doubtless have been considered as *one of the first English scholars*. In Greek, however, we have no hesitation in pronouncing him *the very first*, not merely of his own age, but of every other. He is surely entitled to this honourable distinction, when we consider that he possessed at once, each in its highest degree of excellence, all the qualities for which any single scholar has hitherto been eminent. In him were conspicuous, boundless extent of reading; a most exact and well ordered memory; unwearied patience in unravelling the sense of an author, and exploring the perplexities of a manuscript; perspicacity in discovering the corruptions of a text; and acuteness, almost intuitive, in restoring the true reading. All this, he it observed, was tempered with a judgment, which preserved him invariably from the rocks against which even the greatest of his critical predecessors have at some time or other split; we mean precipitation in determining that to be unsound, which after all had no defect; and rashness in applying remedies, which only served to increase the disease.

In thus pronouncing him superior to Salmasius, Casaubon, Hemsterhusius, Toup, Dawes, and even to Bentley and Valckenaer, some of our readers may perhaps be of opinion, that he has published too little to justify this high encomium. To these we must reply in the words of the old proverb, *ex pede Herculem*; and we would boldly refer to the four plays of Euripides, with the Preface and Supplement, as the work of a critic, soaring in genius and in attainment above his predecessors. When, moreover, we appeal to those exquisite specimens of profound knowledge and critical acumen, which he so liberally communicated to his friends, we have no hesitation in giving it as our opinion, that what is yet unpublished, is equal, both in value and extent,* to that which has already been submitted to the world. And we have only to express our most ardent and decided wish, that some steps may be immediately taken in order to collect all the remains of this admirable scholar, for the purpose of publication; whether they be recorded in the memories and books of his friends, or whether they be treasured among his own literary *κειμήλια*.

In the enumeration of those qualities, which contributed to raise this wonderful man to such a proud pre-eminence, it would be unpardonable to forget the point and brilliancy of his wit. It is difficult to define this faculty as it exists in any mind; but it is peculiarly so as it appeared in that of Porson, on account of the variety, as well as beauty, of the forms it assumed. At one time it was the happy talent of enlivening and illustrating a subject by a peculiarly apt and dextrous quotation;

* We certainly would not willingly occasion any disappointment to the public; and yet it is possible we may here be speaking more from our wishes than a well-grounded expectation.

quotation;* at another, it scattered at will the Attic salt, which gave so much vivacity to the controversies of Bentley, and which diffuses such peculiar splendour over the polemical gloom of the Letters to Archdeacon Travis; at other times this superior genius wielded the more concealed, but caustic, weapon, which probed to the quick the follies and the vices of mankind in the Satires of Swift. Such, and so various, were the powers of Richard Porson, that by turns we are in doubt whether we have been more fascinated by his wit, or astonished at his learning.

To these intellectual excellencies, faintly and imperfectly as they are pourtrayed, were added strong and admirable moral qualities:—the most inflexible spirit of integrity: a most inviolable regard to truth; and their necessary concomitants, the most determined independence. By precept, as well as example, he discountenanced all violent emotions of the mind, and particularly that of anger. His sentiments upon the subject of Religion it was difficult (at least for such persons as did not enjoy opportunities of frequent and familiar intercourse with him) to collect with precision. We are however, enabled to state, as the decided conviction of those, who were more particularly honoured with his confidence, that his faith was steady in the pure and consoling truths of Christianity. In his interpretation of some parts of the sacred volume, he certainly differed from the Church of England; but his dissent was unmixed with any tincture of undue or schismatical warmth in favour of a system, to which, after mature and painful deliberation, he felt himself bound to adhere. For the name of God he ever observed the most pious reverence; nor ever would he suffer it to be profaned in his presence. Obscene language was in an equal degree the object of his antipathy and disgust.

He undoubtedly had a warm sense of kindness to himself; and felt more, than he expressed, of benevolence towards others! Of every thing mean, base, insolent, treacherous or selfish, whether practised towards others or towards himself, he had a quick discernment and a most rooted abhorrence—and the terms of bitter contempt, or of severe indignation, in which he expressed himself upon such occasions, may have given rise to opinions concerning the real bent of his feelings, which those, who had frequent opportunities of observing him, can safely pronounce to be unfounded.

From this attempt to shew the cast of his moral character, it appears, that as the features of his mind were robust, so were the virtues of his heart stern. Indeed, in many of their better points he has frequently reminded us of the old Stoics; but if he did take Cato for his model, it is seriously to be lamented that he imitated him in one of his

* He once said that he wished to be called upon for a second edition of his Letters to Travis, and in that case he meant to prefix this as a motto:

*Quo, moriture, ruis, majoraque viribus audes?
Fallit te incautum pietas tua,*

his defects.† We have no doubt that the *tempestiva convivia*, in which the Professor loved to indulge, owed their origin to a sleeplessness first brought on by habits of study, and subsequently increased by indisposition; but whatever was the cause, deeply do we deplore this additional instance of infirmity attached to the greatest and most shining excellencies. We must however carefully guard our readers from supposing that this eminently learned man was habitually addicted to the use of strong and heating liquors. When alone, he was singularly abstemious. And again we must urge the observation that his late hours were not occasioned by the *vice* of intemperance, but by the *misfortune* of his inability to sleep. His usual and favourite beverage upon these occasions was table beer; and continually would he pass the night, charming and instructing those who sat around, without the slightest advance to inebriety. But sometimes the officious zeal of his less discreet companions would supply temptations, against which he was not sufficiently upon his guard—and towards the latter part of his life, his frame, undermined as it unhappily was by the corrosions of disease, could ill sustain, and consequently betrayed, the least indulgence. Yet be it observed that, in no moment of gaiety, carried even to a faulty excess, did he ever lose that reverence for the name of his Creator, and that loathing of obscenity, which we have already mentioned as honourable characteristics of his moral tendencies; never did he swerve from his undeviating attachment to truth, nor ever was he known to betray a secret.

In a subsequent number we propose to give an account of the Professor's publications, and to collect, as well as we may be enabled, some of those lighter productions which are dispersed in the fugitive publications of the day.

October 17, 1808.

HELLENOPHILUS.

† Mart. Epig. Lib. ii. 89.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

FROM AN UNFINISHED POEM.

The different views which past life affords to different persons, with its efficient and final cause. The moving principle's remaining unawakened, the sole cause of the non-cultivation and obscurity of Genius.*

WHAT different hues, from the brown slope of years,
To different eyes the backward scenery wears!
Yet through the self-same landscape have we past,
Stol'n from one point, and reached one bourne at last;

Through

* This connects immediately with p. 144.

Through youth's gay fields, where flowers unbidden smiled :
Through manhood's maze, and age's wintry wild.
Thus, weary when we hold the short'ning road,
And turn to trace the winding path we trode;
Though chequer'd scenes may meet our lingering views,
Yet why not chequer'd, each, with kindred hues?

Nor deem'st thou then, by Nature's hand imprest,
Some varying principle in every breast,
Our foot still urges, still directs our course,
Unfelt its influence, and unown'd its force?
For some, she said, should tempt the giddy height
Of power, still glitt'ring in ambition's sight;
And some at ease within the shelter'd vale,
Turn the kind glebe, and call the friendly gale.
Say, why that height, with danger girt around,
Lifts the gay brow, with luscious fruitage crowned,
Were none to mount sublime with daring tread,
And shower profusion o'er the subject mead?
Or why from heaven distills the vernal shower,
Why teems that vale with vegetative power,
If none be found to bid the blade unfold,
Or cloathe the mead with undulating gold?

Yet oft, unwaken'd from its infant rest,
Inglorious sleeps the monarch of the breast :
Ah, hapless wight ! the birth of star malign !
Beneath no sway whose mental bands combine ;
Nor for thy locks the deathless laurels blow,
Nor regal circlet glitters on thy brow ;
For thee no bard shall wake the muse's flame,
Catch the wild strings, and envy death thy name ;
—Unworthy thou to boast the myrtle wreath,
Through life unhonour'd, and unknown in death.

For, like the fair, that spurns disputed reign,
Nor owns the captive of a rival's chain,
Each sister-art requires thy breast alone,
Or the whole choir renounce, or cleave to one ;
Nor part thy care ; let that possess the whole,
Rise with each thought, and mingle with thy soul :
So shall fair honour yield the envied palm,
Bless all thy life, thy memory embalm.

Why weeps the Muse, then, many a wayward son
Of song neglectful, and to fame unknown ?
Extinct by penury the soul of fire ?
No, her chill breezes but the flame inspire ;

And

And, but that still malignant chance prevails,
Nor wakes the latent spark to catch the gales,
Her flame quiescent soon should Genius raise,
Mount o'er the breast, and burst into a blaze.

FLOSCULUS.

THE DEW-DROP.

OFT have I view'd with pensive eye
The dewdrop sparkling on the flow'r,
How soon beneath the morning sky
Its evanescent glories die,
The nurslings of an hour.

The traveller's foot, the rustling gale,
The summer sun's ascending glow,
Alike its tender frame assail,
Alike with cruel power prevail
To lay its beauty low.

Tis thus with man.—In darkness born,
He glitters in the dawning beam,
But soon from fair creation torn,
He vanishes in early morn,
Like an aërial dream:

These, stricken on the desert heath
By rude affliction, droop and yield;
And those, below the baleful breath
Of fell disease, retire to death
In life's serener field.

And some there are who court the ray
Of thirsty pleasure's burning sun,
Awhile they bask, awhile they play,
But soon their life-blood wastes away,
And then the sport is done.

But from the grasp of fate below
Virtue has borne a chosen few;
And mark, in yonder beauteous bow,
With what a bright effulgence glow,
The crystals of immortal dew.

J. B. A.

ARIETTA DI METASTASIO.

LA QUERCIA.

SPREZZA il furor del vento
Robusta Quercia, avezza
Di cento verni e cento
L'ingiurie a tollerar.

E se pur cade al suolo
Spiega per l'onde il volo,
E con quel vento istesso
Va contrastando al mar.

IMITATED.

THE OAK.

The tall Oak towering to the skies,
The fury of the wind defies;
From age to age, in virtue strong,
Inured to stand, and suffer wrong.

O'erthrown at length upon the plain,
It puts forth wings, and sweeps the main;
Its former foe undaunted braves,
And fights the wind upon the waves.

J. M.

SONNET.

WAVING his dewy tresses in the gale
The morn sat smiling on the lap of spring,
And as we rang'd with gladness down the vale,
Round my fair Ellen's brow on silver wing
The sunbeam flew disporting. Vainly bright
Shone the young hour upon our flow'ry way,
For soon the clouds obscur'd the orient light,
And veil'd the glory of the op'ning day.
Depress'd in heart, I fearfully survey'd
My love's soft aspect, but delighted there
Her wonted sweetness still serenely play'd:
Oh 'twas a pleasing view! The scene so fair
Seem'd in the mirror of my fervent love
A pledge of constancy no fate could move.

J. B. A.

LITERARY AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

The Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Mr. Percival Stockdale, which were some time ago announced as in preparation, are in the press, and will make their appearance early in the next year. These Memoirs will include many interesting anecdotes of the illustrious men with whom he has been connected; the work will also abound with social, moral, political, and religious observations, and contain a particular account of Marseilles, Gibraltar, and Algiers, at which places the author for some time resided.

Mr. G. Burnett has in the press, and in a state of forwardness, for publication, "The Beauties of Milton's Prose, with Preliminary Remarks and Criticisms." In 2 vols. 12mo. It is the prime object of the volumes here announced, to give an extensive diffusion to the sentiments of Milton, by selecting such of his pieces, and parts of pieces, as, from their high merit, deserve, in the main, to have a permanent influence upon public opinion; thus connecting the prose writings also of our great poet into a popular classic. The prose compositions of Milton may, with insignificant exceptions, be distributed under three general heads, according as they relate, 1. to Ecclesiastical Law; 2. to Matrimonial Law; 3. to the Tenure of the Magistrate. All the pieces which have reference to either of these subjects, respectively, the Editor proposes to arrange together, though written at distant periods, and found in different parts of the author's works. For the rest, the several pieces will be printed in the order of their dates. The principle which he proposes to observe relatively to the parts rejected or retained, is, 1. to give the political pieces either entire or nearly so; 2. to abridge very considerably the other pieces. The several pieces under the two first heads of division will be found in themselves *complete*, though not *entire*, considered as original productions of Milton. Besides, as the interest on each subject is progressive, the several tracts may also be regarded, in some sort, as so many books of the same treatise. The work announced, therefore, will not be made up, in any respect, of *scraps*, as the title would seem to indicate, but of complete essays or pieces on the several subjects treated. The only prose productions of Milton of much consequence, not included in the present collection, are his History of Britain, and his Brief History of Muscovia; unless, indeed, we should also mention his State Letters, of which, however, a specimen or two will be given.

We understand that a Novel from the pen of Mrs. Hanway is in the press, and will make its appearance before Christmas.

Mr. Joseph Ivimey intends shortly to publish the Life of Mr. John Bunyan, containing his Grace abounding to the chief of sinners. An account of his imprisonment, conversation before the Justices, &c. first published from his own manuscript in 1765, and remarks on his character and writings, with a fine portrait. The same author has also nearly ready for publication, The History of Baptism, or an Appeal to Scripture and History for information on that subject, in dialogues between a Baptist and Paedobaptist, with a frontispiece, representing the baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch.

Proposals have been issued by the Rev. Thomas Stabback, Lecturer of Helston, for publishing by subscription, in two volumes octavo, illustrated by maps, the Four Gospels, and the Acts of the Apostles, with Annotations Critical, Explanatory, and Practical; chiefly selected from the most able Commentators, ancient and modern, and designed for the use both of private families and younger students in divinity. The chief object proposed in this publication is to supply a clear elucidation of this most important part of the New Testament at a low price; and to shew the leading sense and connection of the sacred writers, generally in as brief an explanation as possible.

A work is now in the Press, and will be published in the course of the winter, on Capital Punishment, in which the opinions of Sir W. Blackstone, Dr. Johnson, and other eminent writers will be given on that important subject.

Dr. Andrew Grant will shortly publish, in octavo, a History of Brasil; with a Description of the Natives, Remarks on the Nature of its Soil, &c. and Observations on the most prevalent Diseases.

The

The Rev. Mr. Wix will shortly publish Scriptural Illustrations of the Thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England.

L. D. Campbell, Esq. is printing a History of India, during the Administration of Marquis Wellesley, from 1797 to 1806, composed from Official Records and Original Documents. The work will form two thick quarto volumes, accompanied with a Map of India, and a Portrait of Marquis Wellesley.

Mr. Holloway, author of the *Peasant's Fate*, will soon publish a volume of Familiar and Descriptive Poetry, called the *Minor Minstrel*.

The following works are in the press at Oxford:

Scholia in Pindari Carmina, ex edit. Chr. Gott. Heyne. 8vo.

The same, fine paper.—The same, royal.

Scattergood's Sermons, (a small impression) 2 vols. 8vo.

Sophocles, Brunck. 2 vols. 32mo.—Æschylus, 32mo.—Euripides, 32mo.

Æschylus, Schutz. 2 vols. 8vo.—Novum Test. Græc. 32mo.

Thucydides Gr. ex edit. Duker. 2 vols. 8vo.

Q. Horatii Flacci Opera, cum Scholiis Veteribus Castigavit, et Notis illustravit, Gulielmus Baxterus; Varias Lectiones et Observationes addidit Jo. Matthias Gesnerus; quibus et suas adpersit Jo. Carlos Zeunius, Proff. Gr. Litt. Viteberg.

Tacitus de Morib. Germaniæ et Vita Agricola, are printing at Cambridge, with select Notes from Brotier, by the Rev. Richard Pelham.

Mr. Belfour intends speedily to publish, in two octavo volumes, *Illustrations of Don Quixote*: tending to confirm and elucidate several real events related in that ingenious work; to convey intelligence of authors and of works therein cited; to discover the sources whence Cervantes has adopted various stories and adventures, improved by the glow of his own fertile imagination; to disclose his continual allusions to works of chivalry and romance; and to develop the satire he employs to correct the follies and vices of the Spanish nation: with occasional reflections on certain doctrines and opinions which he advances or supports.

The *Harleian Miscellany* will shortly be given to the public in Monthly Numbers; the first is announced for publication on the first of December.

MONTHLY LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

AGRICULTURE.

Farmer's Magazine, a periodical work, exclusively directed to Agriculture and Rural Affairs, No. 35. Price 2s. 6d.

EDUCATION.

A Key to Joyce's Arithmetic, 18mo. 2s. 6d.

MEDICINE, SURGERY, &c.

Remarks on the Frequency and Fatality of different Diseases, particularly on the Progressive Increase of Consumption, with Observations on the Influence of the Seasons on Mortality. By William Woolcombe, M. D. 8vo. 6s. boards.

A Practical Dictionary of Domestic Medicine, for the special Use of the Clergy, Heads of Families, and young Practitioners in Medicine. By Richard Reece, M. D. Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, Author of the Domestic Medical Guide, &c. &c. Royal 8vo. 18s. boards.

The Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, No. XVI. Price 3s.

Modern Medicine, with an Exposition of the principal Discoveries. By Daniel Uwins, M. D. 8vo. 6s.

MECHANICS.

An Essay on the Teeth of Wheels. By Robert Buchanan, Engineer. 8vo. 7s.

VOL. IV.

3 L

MISCELLANIES.

MISCELLANIES.

Baldwin's List of all the Duties payable after October 10, 1808, under the management of the Stamp Commissioners, in Great Britain. Neatly done up a form adapted for carrying in a pocket-book. Price 1s.

Vindication of the Hindoos, in Reply to Mr. Fuller. Part II. By a Bengal Officer. 8vo. 5s. sewed.

The Second Part of W. Slade's Catalogue of Scarce and Valuable Books. Price 1s.

The Speech of William Adam, Esq. M. P. for Kincardineshire, in the House of Commons, on the third Reading of the Scots' Judicature Bill, the 24th of June, 1808. 8vo. 2s.

National Life Annuities, 1808. Comprising all the Tables, and every other Information contained in the Act of Parliament for granting the same both on Single and Joint Lives, with Benefit of Survivorship. Also, additional Tables, contrasted with the former throughout, calculated to shew what Annuity can be purchased for 100l. Sterling at the same Rates, upon the same Lives. By E. F. T. Fortune, Stockbroker. 8vo. 3s. 6d. sewed.

Dodsley's Annual Register, for 1806. 8vo. 15s.

Cruttwell's House-keeper's Account Book for 1809. 4to. 2s.

Lady's Toilette, containing an Examination of the Nature of Beauty, &c. 12mo. 9s.

Chesterfield Travestie, or School for Modern Manners, dedicated to George Colman, the younger, Esq. 4s. boards.

NOVELS, ROMANCES, &c.

The Woman of Colour; a Tale. By the Author of Light and Shade. 2 vols. 12mo, 10s. boards.

Margiana; or, Widdrington Tower. 5 vols. 12mo. 1l. 1s. boards.

The Young Mother; or, Albinia. 3 vols. 12mo. 15s. boards.

Old Irish Baronet; or, Manners of my Country. 3 vols. 12mo. 15s. boards, Honorie D'Userche. 3 vols. 12mo. 15s.

La Princesse de Wolfenbittel par Isabelle de Montolieu. 2 vols. 12mo, 10s.

Mysteries in High Life. 3 vols. 12mo. 15s.

POETRY.

Selections of Poems. By Charles Smart, Newark. 2 vols. crown 8vo. 16s. boards.

THEOLOGY.

The Conversion of God's Ancient People the Jews. An Address delivered at Worship-Street, October 2, 1808, upon the Baptism, by immersion, of Mr. Isaac Littleter, one of the Israelitish nation, on his profession of Christianity, to which is prefixed an Account of his Conversion. By John Evans, A. M. 1s.

A Sermon, preached at St. Mary le Bow Church, Cheapside, on Monday the 5th of September, 1808, being the First of a Series, appointed to be delivered for Boyle's Lecture, on the first Monday of every Month. By the Rev. Edward Repton, A. M. of Magdalen College, Oxford; Curate of Crayford, in Kent. 8vo. 1s. 6d.

A Sermon against Witchcraft, preached in the Parish Church of Great Paxton, in the County of Huntingdon, July 17, 1808. With a brief Account of the Circumstances which led to two atrocious Attacks on the Person of Ann Izzard, as a reputed Witch. By the Rev. Isaac Nicholson, A. M. Curate. 8vo. 1s. 6d.

Lectures on the Figurative Language of the Holy Scripture, &c. and the Interpretation of it from the Scripture itself. By William Jones, M. A. F. R. S. Author of the "Catholic Doctrine of the Trinity." 8vo. 8s. boards.

Lectures on the Nature and End of the Sacred Office, and on the Dignity, Duty, &c. of the Sacred Order. By John Smith, D. D. of Cambleton, 8vo. 6s.

Scripture

Scripture Versions, Hymns, and Reflections on Select Passages, designed for the use of young Persons. By J. Waring. 12mo. 3s. 6d. boards.

Natural Theology, or a Demonstration of the Being and Attributes of God, from his works of Creation, arranged in a popular way for youth. By William Enfield, M. A. 18mo. 2s. 6d. boards.

TRANSLATIONS.

The First Two Books of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, attempted in English Verse. By W. Mills, late a Scholar, now an Assistant, in Buntingford Grammar School. 12mo. 5s. boards.

Chronicle of the Cid, Rodrigo Diaz de Bivar, the Campeador, from the Spanish. By Robert Southey. 4to. 1l. 15s.

A Picture of Valencia, taken on the spot, with Remarks on the Moors in Spain, from the German of O. A. Fischer. By F. Shoberl. 8vo. 9s.

VOYAGES AND TRAVELS.

Letters written during a short Residence in Spain and Portugal. By Robert Southey. A new edition, corrected and amended. 2 vols. foolscap 8vo. 10s. 6d. boards.

Seville's Journey through Spain and Italy to Naples; and thence to Smyrna and Constantinople. The second edition, with a Whole Sheet Map of Spain, a Translation of the Spanish Post Guide, and other important Additions. 2 vols. crown 8vo. 12s. boards.

A Picture of Lisbon, taken on the spot, by a Gentleman many years resident at Lisbon. 8vo. 8s.

The following works have lately been published at Oxford—

Pindari Carmina et Fragmenta; cum Lectionis Varietate et Annotationibus. A Chr. Gottl. Heyne. Accedunt Indices Copiosissimi. 2 vols. 8vo. 1l. 4s.

Idem, *chart. eleg.* 2 vols. 1l. 10s.—Idem, *chart. max.* 2 vols. 1l. 16s.

Sophoclis Tragediæ Septem; cum Scholiis Veteribus, Versione Latina et Notis. Accedunt Deperditorum Dramatum Fragmenta. Ex Editione Rich. Franc. Phil. Brunck. 2 vols. 8vo. 1l. 10s.

Idem, *chart. max.* 2l. 10s. Ut intelligat Lector quid in hac Sophoclis editione fuerit præstitum, pauca nobis dicenda sunt. Sciat ergo, quo editio hæc perfectior prodiret singulas editiones Brunckianas, viz. ann 1786, in 4to. et in 8vo. et 1788, 8vo. fuisse diligenter collatas, discrepantemque Lectionem textui subjectam, necnon Notas inter se dissidentes ad calcem appositas, Præfatio insuper et Index ex editione principe accesserunt, Textu, Notis. Scholiisque antiquis e postrema editione expressis.

Herodoti Halicarnassei Historiarum Lib. IX. Textus Wesselingianus passim refectus argumentorumque ac temporum notatio. Editionem Friderici Volg. Reizi. 2 vols. 8vo. 18s.

Idem, *chart. max.* 1l. 16s.

Madan's Translation of Juvenal and Persius. 2 vols. 8vo. 18s.

Potter's Translation of Euripides. 2 vols. 8vo. 18s.

Do do Æschylus. 8vo. 9s.

Do do Sophocles. 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Thucydidis Orationes, Baveri. 12mo. 6s.

Cicero on the Character of an Orator, by Guthrie. 12mo. 7s.

The Poetical Works and Letters of Vincent Bourne, late Master of Westminster School. 2 vols. foolscap 8vo. 10s. 6d.

Demosthenis Orationes Duodecim, cum Wolfiana Interpretatione: ex Edit. G. Allen. 7s.

Aristotle's Rhetoric, translated by the Professors of the Art of Thinking. 12mo. 3s. 6d.

Letters on Infidelity, by Dr. Horne, late Lord Bishop of Norwich. Crown 8vo. 4s. 6d.

Cicero's Offices, by Cockman. 12mo. 5s.

Pindari Carmina. Heyne. 32mo. 5s.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

		Wind.	Pressure.		Temp.		Evap.	Rain, &c	
			max.	min.	max.	min.			
Sept.	b. a.	20	W	30.29	30.20	68°	44°	9	
	b. a.	21	W	30.20	30.12	68	45	5	1
	b. a.	22	Var.	30.12	29.60	67	51		.23
		23	N	29.90	29.60	59	43	.18	1
		24	NW	30.03	29.90	56	46	9	
		25	Var.	30.04	29.90	60	41	5	
	b. a.	26	Var.	29.90	29.90	64	47	8	
		27		29.90	29.77	55	36	9	
	c.	28		29.77	29.47	56	36	5	
		29		29.49	29.47	58	38	4	
		30		29.77	29.49	51	34	5	
	Oct.	1		29.77	29.70	54	38	7	
		2		29.80	29.70	54	34	3	
	b.	3		30.04	29.80	55	46	4	
	b.	4		30.05	30.04	56	41	2	
	h.	5		30.05	29.90	62	46	4	.40
	d.	6	SW	30.03	30.00	65	48	7	
	e.	7	W	30.00	29.31	57	46	.12	.19
	f.	8	NW	29.70	29.31	52	41	.14	1
		9	NW	29.77	29.71	53	38	9	
	a.	10	W	30.01	29.77	57	37	6	
	a.	11	W	29.92	29.80	56	41	7	6
	a.	12	NW	30.06	29.92	54	34	9	
		13	NW	30.06	29.50	50	40	8	6
	g.	14	SW	29.50	29.18	57	38	.12	4
	f.	15	W	29.52	29.18	48	42	4	3
	f.	16	W	29.53	29.48	51	40	.10	7
	f.	17	NW	29.73	29.53	49	38	7	
	f.	18	SW	29.73	29.50	54	38	.11	3
				29.88	29.68	56.75	40.93	T. 2.13	1.14
				M. 29.78		48.84			

N.B. The Notations comprised in each line relate to a period of 24 hours, reckoned from 9 a. m. on the day of the date. A dash denotes that the period so marked is to form a part of that allotted to the next observation.

1808.]

[445]

REMARKS.

- a. Much dew a.m.: the product in the gauge on the 21st was dew.
- b. misty.
- c. Lunar halo at night.
- d. A stratus on the marshes.
- e. A stormy night.
- f. Windy.
- g. A. M. stormy with rain. Wind south.
- h. This is the product of rain fallen at different intervals (not noted) since the 26th.

RESULTS.

Prevailing Winds, Westerly.

Mean height of Barometer	-	29.78 In.
Thermometer		48.84
Evaporation	- - - - -	2.13 In.
Rain	- - - - -	1.14 In.

L. H.

Plaistow, 20th of 10th mo, 1808.

RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER.

Mean Pressure Barom. 29.63⁺—Highest 30.14—Lowest 29.10.—Range 1.04.
 Mean Temperature - 56°.47—Highest 68°. —Lowest 38°—Range 30°.
 Spaces described by the Barometer in inches, 7.80. Number of Changes 9.
 Rain, &c. this Month, 2.710 inches.—Number of Wet Days, 12.—Total Rain this Year, 16.880 inches.

WIND.

N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW
5	15	7	12	0	19	13	12

Total Number of Observations, 63.— Number of Stormy Days, 0.

THOS. HANSON.

Manchester Lying-in Hospital, Oct. 3, 1808.

INTELLIGENCE

RELATIVE TO ARTS MANUFACTURES, &c.

Account of the last Reports of the Committee of the House of Commons relative to Wheel Carriages and Roads.

In our second volume an account of the former reports of the Committee on Carriages and Roads is given at pages 407 and 523. In the course of this present year (1808) they have ordered three more reports to be printed on the same subject. After stating the great importance of rendering the means of internal communication as perfect as possible, the neglect with which this subject has hitherto been treated, and the great defects of the roads of this kingdom in many particulars, they propose, as the first step towards improvement, that a *parliamentary commission* should be appointed, for the examination of the local trusts for roads, and of their accounts, and for hearing complaints against them; that an annual report of the state of the turnpike roads of the kingdom should be laid before his Majesty and both houses of parliament by these commissioners; and that under their direction the necessary experiments should be tried for ascertaining the best mode of forming roads, and of keeping them in repair, and the best construction for carriages and wheels; and a system of legislative provision be prepared most effectual for the preservation and improvement of roads. Such great objects, which would add millions to the national income, and would encrease the comfort of every individual in the kingdom, can only be successfully carried through by a great and permanent institution, whose whole attention shall be directed to that particular object.

CARRIAGES.

The Committee recommend in the most particular manner the adoption of cylindrical wheels in place of the conical ones now in general use, the disadvantages of which were pointed out in the former reports. Mr. Jessop's expressions on this subject, which are quoted by the Committee, deserve peculiar notice; which state, that "by the exclusive adoption of cylindrical broad wheels and flat roads, there would be a saving of one horse in four, of 75 per cent. in repairs of roads, and of 50 per cent. in wear of tire; and that wheels with spokes alternately inclined would be equally strong with conical ones, and wear twice as long as wheels do now on the present roads." The Committee state, that many arguments may be adduced for the adoption of single horse carts in preference to waggons; but do not recommend them universally, as they think there are various cases in which waggons, if provided with cylindrical wheels, are on the whole preferable. It was alledged in the evidence before them, that five one-horse carts would carry as much as one eight-horse waggon; but that as it was represented to them, that five men must be employed to drive the five one-horse carts, and that one man would be sufficient for the eight-horse waggon, the expence attending the five carts would be considerably greater than that of the waggon. On this important point, however, it is evident the decision has been rather hasty, for the evidence only proved that one man would not be sufficient to take charge of five carts in cities or large towns, but by no means demonstrated that five men would be required for this purpose. One man is found to be very competent to the care of five or six one-horse carts in carrying goods in the north; if it should then appear, as we firmly believe it would, that two men would in the south be as fully able to preserve the property entrusted to them, and prevent accidents, as one man in the north, there will then be a saving of no less than three pounds per week
in

in carrying goods by five single carts instead of in one waggon, according to the mode of computation used by the advocates of waggons, which allows thirty shillings per week for each man and the same for each horse employed. The employment of even three men with the five carts would cost thirty shillings a week less than the waggon; that of four men would make the expences of both modes just equal; and surely no one would hesitate to allow, that this number, in the very worst cases could fully manage five horses in carts, while the prevention of injury to the roads that would arise from the latter mode of carrying goods, which is generally acknowledged would be a consideration of the utmost importance, should induce the public to give it every encouragement, and would make it the interest of turnpike contractors that the toll on one-horse carts should be reduced very much below its present rate, so as to operate as a premium on their use. Two other objections made to the use of one-horse carts by the advocates for waggons, only shew how much at a loss they were for arguments in their favour; one is, the expence of greasing a little more than double the number of wheels, and the other, the present law, that obliges every carriage to be attended by a driver; the expence of greasing a few more wheels appears a very paltry consideration, and when there would be more men to do the work, supposing more drivers to the cart system, would be merely confined to the additional grease used; but even this is not clearly decided, for it is evident that the quantity of grease consumed must bear some ratio to the friction, and this is well known not to be more for ten wheels than for four with the same load. As to the existence of a former law, it seems quite nugatory to mention it when the new act of parliament to be passed on the occasion could so easily regulate the cases wherein the old law should be dispensed with. There are methods also known for combining a number of carriages of the size of single horse carts, so as to be drawn by a single team, which would require but one driver; among which, that proposed by Mr. Edgeworth is one of the best: this plan deserved some consideration, as did that also for using waggons with eight wheels; and we hope they may yet be attended to.

There are two ways of regulating wheels, for the preservation of roads; one to make the load bear a ratio to the breadth of the wheels, the other to make it bear a ratio to the number of wheels: the latter mode utterly defeats all evasion and all collusion between turnpike-men and waggons, to which it is well known the former has been always liable; and if in other points the latter mode is equal to the former, as it certainly appears to be, this consideration alone should give it a preference.

The Committee seem inclined to prefer the former method, probably influenced by its being more agreeable to the mode of carriage of England, though contrary to that of the other parts of the united kingdom; they in consequence recommend that the breadth of wheels should be in a ratio to the number of horses used for draft, so as to encourage the use of broad cylindrical wheels; and that all carts, with wheels of less than six inches broad, should be prohibited from using more than two horses.

SPRINGS.

The evidence before the Committee clearly shewed the advantage of the use of springs for waggons; and that springs similar to those used for fire engine carriages would be equal to the load of a waggon, without encreasing the height. The ease which springs give horses in the draft is so very considerable, that a much less number of horses may be safely used with them; they are, besides, very advantageous in preventing damage to the goods carried. Since the receptacles for luggage in stage coaches was joined to the body, and the whole supported on springs, the luggage has suffered little injury compared with what it used to do. The proprietors of the Shrewsbury coach, it was proved, have paid 600*l.* in the course of a year for goods damaged in the carriage before the improvement took place. But the chief advantage of springs is in lessening the draft to the horses. Some experiments made many years ago by Mr. Edgeworth (published in the transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, and again in the Repertory of Arts, V. I. p. 101.) shewed clearly that the use of springs

springs diminished the resistance nearly one half when moving with a velocity of ten feet in a second, from whence he justly inferred, that "a pair of horses could draw a carriage mounted on springs with greater ease and expedition than four could draw the same carriage if the springs and braces were removed and the carriage bolted fast down to the perch." It is painful to observe how slowly useful truths make their way into practice. The above, though published so many years ago, is only now beginning to come into notice; but the just attention paid to it by the Committee, it is to be hoped, will at last remove the torpor of the public on a point of so much importance to internal commerce.

In the evidence, the following account of the weights of the different carriages used in the united kingdom was stated.

	<i>cut.</i>		<i>cut.</i>
The weight of an Irish car, not	- 3	Waggons with 9-inch wheels, from	
Of a Leith cart, about	- 7		30 to 40
Carts with 3-inch wheels	- 9	Waggons with 16-inch wheels	- 55
Carts with 6-inch wheels	- 18	A gentleman's carriage	- 18
Waggons with 6-inch wheels	- 22		

The loads carried by these carriages are,

	<i>cut.</i>
By an Irish car	- 10
By a Leith cart, from	- 16 to 28
By a waggon with 9-inch wheels, about	80

The wheels of stage coaches, the Committee recommend, to be from 4 to 6 inches broad, according to the weight they are allowed to carry; and that those of gentlemen's carriages should be from three to four inches broad.

The Committee takes notice of the use of oxen for draft on roads in preference to horses, but are properly cautious in what they advance on a subject not yet decided, and observe, that "where oxen can be advantageously employed, it may be a subject which claims deliberate consideration, whether the use of them may not be entitled to legislative encouragement, by subjecting carts or waggons drawn by oxen to inferior tolls." If oxen could fatten while they are worked, the question of the benefit of their labour would be at once determined; but as they cannot, the point for decision is only whether horses or oxen do most work in proportion to the cost of their maintenance. Horses do most work, and cost most; oxen, the reverse: the precise ratio of the work of each to the cost is not exactly determined; but it appears from what is as yet published on the subject, that in most cases, particularly in agricultural labour on light lands, the greater quantity of work which horses can do, not only pays for the greater cost of their food, and for the first cost of themselves, but leaves some overplus, which is probably not very great, or it would not now be a question, whether their labour or that of oxen was most advantageous.

STAGE COACHES.

The Committee propose the following regulations for adoption relative to Stage Coaches: 1st. "That all coaches travelling for hire shall take out a licence for a certain number of outside passengers as well as of inside passengers, and that the number permitted of both should be painted in a conspicuous manner on each coach, together with the name of the proprietor of the coach. 2d. That no luggage whatever shall be carried on the top of any coach travelling for hire, nor more than four passengers be permitted on the roof of the coach, or on any board or contrivance attached to it. 3d. That stage coaches, having less than four horses, shall not carry more than five outside passengers besides the coachman. 4th. That stage coaches, drawn by four horses, shall not carry more than ten outside passengers. 5th. That no coach shall be permitted to carry any outside passengers, the top of which shall be more than eight feet from the ground, many overturns having been caused by the great height to which coaches are unnecessarily elevated; that for greater safety, the wheels should be placed farther asunder on each axle than is usual, and that the wheels of stage coaches and other carriages on the same axle should

should run at least five feet two inches asunder on the road. The necessity of regulating the weights carried by stage coaches in proportion to the breadth of their wheels, appeared plainly from the great weight of the Worcester heavy coach, which on trial proved to be no less than three tons eighteen hundred weight when laden. The enormous weights which mail coaches also carry renders their exemption from toll a great grievance, on account of the injury they do the roads. The Committee, therefore, recommend this subject, and the regulation of the number of outside passengers to be carried by them, to the attention of parliament. The Committee also recommend a heavy penalty to be inflicted on the drivers of return post chaises who carry any inside passengers, or more than one outside passenger, on account of the great losses and injuries which the owners of post chaises have stated they suffer by this practice, and from the stage coaches, which pay a considerable revenue to government, being thereby prevented from having their proper chance of customers: this revenue has been found to amount, for ten stage coaches and six mails, to 14,906l. from April 6, 1807, to March 7, 1808.

(To be continued.)

Patent of Mr. John Curr, of the parish of Sheffield, in the county of York, for a certain invention of spinning Hemp for the making of Ropes or Cordage.—Dated March, 1808.

The object of the contrivance for which this patent is obtained, is to regulate the degree of twist in a given length of rope yarn, by determining the rate at which the spinners walk, so as to correspond with a certain number of turns of the wheel that moves the spindles. For this purpose a small drum, about twelve inches diameter, and 20 or 24 inches long, is annexed to the axis of this wheel; and on this drum a cord is coiled in the reversed direction of the motion of the wheel, so that it winds off as the wheel is turned; the end of this cord is fastened to one of the spinners, and by his receding from the wheel as fast as the cord unwinds, the object desired, of making the twist bear a certain proportion to the length of the cord, is gained. The degree of this proportion will be of course regulated by the size of the drum; one of a smaller diameter will cause more twist in a given length, and one of a greater diameter the reverse. All the whirls of the spindles are to be of the same size, and all the spinners employed at the wheel are to begin and end their threads at the same time, and are to keep the same speed, and form a line with, the person to whom the cord is attached.

A patent has been taken out by Mr. Hall, of Kingston upon Hull, in the month of June after the date of Mr. Curr's patent, principally for the same object, by a method which seems to us merely a modification of Mr. Curr's contrivance. In this way, a cord goes round a drum on the axle of the spinning wheel, as in Mr. Curr's plan; but instead of being attached to the spinner, it goes over a pulley above the wheel, traverses to the end of the rope walk, passes there over another pulley, and is again returned to the drum, having both ends fastened together so as to form an endless band, on which band is fastened two pieces of red cloth, to serve as marks to the spinners, by which they are to regulate their pace as it proceeds to the end of the rope walk, always keeping in a line with it across the walk as nearly as they can.

On a former occasion we pointed out an instance where a contrivance of Mr. Curr's was copied in the closest manner in a patent. It is impossible to be certain whether Mr. Hall knew of Mr. Curr's patent, so his plan cannot be correctly said to be an imitation of it, though the principle is the same in both methods.

Account of the Patent of Mr. Wm. Cobb, of Swithin's-lane, London, for a method of making an Air Jacket, and Shoes to assist swimming. Dated March, 1764. And of Mr. Daniel's Life Preservers.

In Mr. Cobb's specification the air jacket is directed to be made of leather, or any other pliable substance that will hold air, with pieces sewed on the back and sides, bigger than them, so as to hang loose and hollow, to form a bag for the reception of air, with which it is to be inflated by a pipe fixed to it for this purpose. The jacket is to be buttoned before, and to be fastened to the waist-band of the breeches also with buttons. The jacket was to have a bag annexed to it, called an air receptacle, into which the air was to pass first on its way to the hollow parts of the jacket. The account of this bag is not very clear, nor is its use obvious, as the hollow parts or bags of the jacket would be sufficient for the purpose wanted.

The swimming shoes are made of pieces of wood of the shape of the sole of a shoe, with other pieces fastened to them by hinges and joints covered with leather, so as to open and shut like a swan's foot in swimming.

The specification of this patent has been inserted in the Repertory of Arts for October, to shew the identity of Mr. Cobb's invention with Mr. Daniel's Life-preserver, for which he last year obtained a gold medal from the Society for the Encouragement of Arts. The principle is certainly the same in both plans: the only difference between them is, that Mr. Daniel's apparatus has a strap fastened to it which passes between the legs, and two others that rest one on each shoulder, that it has no buttons, and does not fit close to the body. The straps give somewhat more security than buttons; but the close fitting of the original jacket certainly made it more convenient for moving through the water in swimming. Though Mr. Daniel cannot claim the merit of originality on this occasion, yet certainly his exertions for the preservation of the lives of the many valuable members of society who are obliged to commit themselves to the casualties of the ocean, demand every encouragement. It is probable Mr. Daniel never heard of Mr. Cobb's invention, or if he did, his bringing it into notice after it was in a manner forgotten, and his providing the apparatus for the use of the public at a moderate price, and of a good construction, deserves public gratitude on such an important occasion. A letter is inserted in the transactions of the Society of Arts, which testifies that two gentlemen and two ladies were all preserved by a single air belt of Mr. Daniel's, after being overset in a pleasure-boat near Norwich; and another letter states the preservation of the life of Surgeon Willers, wrecked in a vessel off the Western Islands, by one of Mr. Daniel's belts: Mr. Willers could not swim, but was kept afloat by the belt, till taken up by a Portuguese boat. These swimming belts are, we understand, made for sale in Wapping, and in Henrietta-street, Covent Garden. Mr. Daniel recommends the patent varnish of Mr. Mollerstein, Osborn-street, Whitechapel, as the best for preserving the leather used for the air belts, and for keeping them supple and air-tight. The specification of Mr. Mollerstein's patent will be found in the Repertory of Arts, vol. VII. p. 165, 2d Series. The varnish directed for covering the seams and stitches of the belt is made of gum asphaltum two pounds, amber half a pound, gum benzoin six ounces, linseed oil two pounds, oil of turpentine eight pounds, and lamp-black half a pound, united together in an earthen vessel with a gentle heat.

Useful swimming belts may also be made by running waste bottle corks close together lengthways on strings; twelve or fourteen of which strings, of length sufficient to go round the body, will form a belt of sufficient buoyancy to support a man in the water. The strings of corks would be best enclosed in a case of oil-cloth, furnished with bands for fastening it over the shoulders and between the legs. We are unacquainted with the inventor of these belts, but saw them first mentioned in a volume of the *Esprit des Journaux*, published about three years ago.

Some useful directions will be found for those who happen to fall into water
without

without being able to swim, in our first number, p. 87, in the *Retrospect of Arts and Manufactures*, v. I. p. 86, and in *Nicholson's Philosophical Journal*, No. 58; by attending to which they may in most cases keep themselves afloat till they can receive assistance.

The many accidents which happen every year from want of precautions of the kind above-mentioned, make it adviseable to take every means to circulate the knowledge of them as extensively as possible.

Account of various Trials of Captain M. Cowan's Patent Sails.

Mr. Cowan's sails, for which a patent was obtained in June 1805, are contrived so as to reef at the bottom instead of in the usual manner at the top; for which purpose they are furnished with points, gaskets, robins, buntlines, and the other tackle necessary for reefing one or more reefs in the same way as it is done at the top of the sail; or they may be reefed by buntlines, reeflines, and gaskets alone; the process for which, described accurately by Captain Cowan, may be seen in the *Repertory of Arts*, Vol. IX. p. 83, 2d Series, but it cannot be conveniently inserted in this number. The sails are also made with the cloths and seams horizontal instead of in the usual vertical position, by which they are much less liable to be rent in high winds and last longer. The testimonies in their favour sent to Capt. Cowan are of the strongest nature; many more have been received equally favourable as the following, but their insertion must be deferred for the present.

Official Report on Capt. Malcolm Cowan's Sails.

EXTRACT from Captain Shepherd's Report to the Admiralty.

Sir,

H. M. Ship *Thisbe*, Guernsey Roads, March 18, 1805.

I beg you will acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I had an opportunity of trying a plain course on Captain M. Cowan's plan on the 12th ult. in a very strong gale of wind from the E. S. E.

I had occasion to reef the courses, and the main one was reefed in two minutes, without a man going aloft, and with very few hands. The sail remained perfectly quiet during the gale, without the least fret or chafing.

It has many advantages over the former construction, not only by expedition, but when weakly manned, particularly on a lee shore, when it would not be prudent to start either tack or sheet; and the reef can as expeditiously be let out should there be occasion to chase.

I find the sail to haul up far more snug than the old way, and, in my humble opinion, I cannot find one objection against it; and every seaman must feel himself very much indebted to Capt. Cowan for his most excellent plan.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) LEWIS SHEPHEARD,
Thisbe, 28 gubs.

William Marsden, Esq. Secretary
to the Admiralty, &c. &c.

COPY of a Certificate from Capt. J. Sykes, of the *Nautilus*,

London, May 29, 1806.

I hereby certify, that his Majesty's sloop *Nautilus*, late under my command, was supplied with a set of the courses on the plan of Capt. M. Cowan, and that having tried them in bad weather, I much approve of them for many superior advantages over the old sails, and consider it an invention of extraordinary benefit

nefit to the sea service in general, particularly to merchant vessels, as tending immediately to their preservation on a lee shore.

They can be reefed while set on the ship, without lessening any other part of the effect of the sails, and in a simple manner, by few hands, and the reef let out again with great expedition in the worst weather.

They are also less liable to split in taking in and setting.

(Signed) J. SYKES.

N. B. These sails met general approbation on board the Nautilus.

Nautilus, 18 guns.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Captain Sheppard to Captain M. Cowan, R. N.

Sir,

London, May 28th, 1806.

Having tried your course in his Majesty's sloop Surinam, under my command, during the winter, when we had almost incessant gales of wind, and in the Bay of Biscay, when it became necessary to reef without otherwise shortening sail, I beg to assure you that we found it answer every end you propose; and I have no doubt, when better known, it will be generally adopted.

(Signed) ALEX. SHEPPARD.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Captain J. Stuart, R. N. to Capt. M. Cowan.

Sir,

London, July 10, 1806.

Being first Lieutenant of his Majesty's ship Minotaur, I had frequent opportunities of trying your reef, which answered beyond expectation, having repeatedly taken in the reef, and let it out three or four times a day, which was done in a few minutes, without taking the sail of the ship.

But it was particularly of service to us after the action off Trafalgar, while carrying sail off the lee shore; and here we found the greatest benefit, in being able to take the reef in during the heavy squalls, and let it out again so expeditiously when it moderated.

(Signed) J. STUART.

Minotaur, 74 guns.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Mr. Edward Harper, Ship Owner, to Captain M. Cowan.

Dear-Sir,

Hull, Nov. 2, 1807.

I think it but justice to give you a further account concerning your most valuable improvements in reefing sails at the foot, and making them with the cloths horizontal.

With respect to your courses that reef without starting tack or sheet, the ship Cognac Packet has had one in use above two years; and from every account I hear, that very easy, expeditious, and safe plan of reefing cannot fail of being generally adopted ere long.

Respecting the horizontal cloths, I had a new main-top-sail and main-stay-sail for her on that plan a year ago at Liverpool, and have examined them after the many extreme hard gales they have stood, and I find them much less chafed, &c. in proportion than any sails in her on the old plan.

So perfectly convinced am I of the superior saving and safety of your mode of reefing, and making sails with horizontal cloths, that I have had a fore-sail on that plan made here, and I shall in every ship I am concerned in not fail having my sails made on your plan.

I suspect

I suspect few men, who have experienced a severe gale of wind on a lee shore, will for a moment hesitate in believing your mode of reefing, without starting tack or sheet, and strengthening the sails by making them with horizontal cloths, will be the means of saving lives and property.

(Signed) EDWARD HARPER.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Captain Hornby, of the Borna, of Grimsby, to Mr. W. Gibson, Sail-maker, of Hull.

December 1, 1806.

I approve of Captain Cowan's sails very much: the experience I had of them during our voyage to Davis's Straits, convinced me they answered every purpose set forth in the directions; and as long as I am enabled I shall not go to sea without them.

I am well aware there are men in most professions wedded to old customs and opinions, and vain would it be to point out to them their utility; but to me the satisfaction I experienced in reefing courses without starting tack or sheet, or shaking the sail, will never be effaced from my memory: and let those seamen who were never on a lee shore or in a narrow passage, in a ship badly manned in a gale of wind, reflect that they are still liable to such cases, and then disapprove of it if they can.

These sails do not shake in hauling up to reef, therefore must last longer.

(Signed) FRANCIS HORNEY.

Sails of the old construction cannot be reefed without hauling up, by which they lose their effect on the Ship while reefing, during which time she drives to leeward. They are also liable to be split in hauling up and in setting, particularly if half worn; and half worn sails often require reefing to save them: Captain Cowan's sails are entirely free from these defects, from the method in which they are reefed, and have besides the advantage of superior strength from the horizontal position of the cloths. Ships are often lost on a lee shore from the splitting of their sails. Sails with vertical seams will blow to pieces in a gale of wind if a few inches of a seam give way; but with the horizontal seams the strain is in a great measure taken off the seams and the sail is strengthened most in the direction of the greatest strain.

The great advantages of these sails, which are now proved by decisive experiments in the most satisfactory manner, ought to occasion their being generally adopted by all ship owners who set any value on the lives of the men they employ, or on the cargoes contained by their ships.

Of the Discoveries in extracting Metals from the Earths and Alkalit.

In the last number of the *Athenæum* a correction was inserted of a former account of this subject in the head of miscellanies, which ought to have appeared in this part of the work; the same mistake which occasioned this prevented the writer of this department from seeing it before its insertion, and from then stating his authority for the former account, which he begs leave now to do by inserting the passage in the *Philosophical Magazine*, No. 31, page 149, from which he took it.

"Mr. Davy referred to some recent experiments of the two Swedish chemists, M. Bezelius and Pontin, who have succeeded in obtaining amalgams of the metals of Barytes and lime by exposing the moistened earths to negatively electrified mercury. Their method succeeds likewise with strontites and magnesia, but not with alumine or silex."

On the publication of the next volume of *Transactions of the Royal Society*, the precise statement made by Mr. Davy shall be given; and in the mean time

time the writer begs leave to express the high respect he feels for Mr. Davy's chemical abilities, and to deny the smallest intention of lessening his justly acquired fame in this occasion, so far from which it would give him pain to insert any thing that could be in the least degree displeasing to a gentleman to whose exertions all lovers of arts and sciences are so much indebted.

It would certainly make our work more oracular, to insert nothing till the most exact authorities could be obtained, but it would also by this means be the latest in conveying intelligence: it is imagined therefore it would be more agreeable to our readers, as well as more beneficial to the extension of useful information, to communicate intelligence as speedily as it is received, and as its is received, and to trust to future correction, as has hitherto been done, for that minute precision, with which it is the writer's earnest wish, that every subject in this work should ultimately be stated.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX.

Married. At *Mary-le-bonne*, Edward Marjoribanks, Esq. to Miss Georgina Latour, third daughter of the late Francis Latour, Esq. of Madras.—Thomas Strickland Standish, Esq. of Standish-hall, Lancashire, to Miss Catherine Gerrard, sister of Sir William Gerrard, Bart. of Garswood, in the same county.—At *St. George's*, Hanover-square, Albin Walter Lewer, son of Henry Lewer, Esq. to Miss P. A. Willett, of Belgrave-place, Pimlico.—By special licence, Wm. A'Court, Esq. eldest son of Sir Wm. A'Court, Bart. of Hetesbury, Wilts, to Miss Maria Bouverie, second daughter of Lady Bridget Bouverie.—At *St. James's*, John Drayton, Esq. banker, of Cheltenham, to Miss Wells, of the same place.—At *St. George's*, Bloomsbury, Captain Joseph Thomas Johnson, of the 8th Madras native regiment, to Miss Catharine Page, only daughter of the late John Thomas Page, Esq. of Woburn-place.—At *St. Dunstan's-in-the-West*, Major Abernethie, of the Royal Marine Artillery, to Mrs. Woodlett, of Brompton, in Kent.—At *Chiswick*, Thomas Adams, Esq. surgeon, to Miss Pratt, daughter of the late Philip Pratt, Esq. of Staple Grove, near Taunton.

Died. In *Upper Harley-street*, aged 74, Hardinge Stracey, Esq.—In *Great Pulleney-street*, David Fraser, Esq.—In *Park-street*, Grosvenor-square, aged 78, the Dowager Lady Middleton.—In *Dorset-street*, Portman-square, Robert Browne, Esq. late of Fortland, in the county of Sligo, Ireland.—In *Portugal-street*, Grosvenor-square, Mrs. Fyers, wife of Lieut. Colonel Fyers.—In *Hill-street*, Berkeley-square, Catharine Maria, wife of William Levison Gower, Esq.—In *Mildred's-court*, Poultry, Wm. Storrs Fry, Esq. banker: he was one of the society called Quakers, though there was nothing in him of bigotry or superstition mingled with the peculiar distinctions that mark that people. He retained the moral purity of every sect, without any of their particularity of error. By honest exertion and successful industry he had increased his patrimonial fortune to an immense sum. Though completely the man of business, Mr. Fry possessed a princely mind in the disposition of wealth, as well as in its accumulation and preservation. He considered "There is that which scattereth and yet withholdeth, and that which withholdeth more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty." He was daily stretching forth his hand to honest penury with a secret liberality, and he met with ardour the wishes of oppressed merit. Of no one could it ever be said with greater propriety, "Il avoit transporté dans le ciel ses biens, par ses charités, il en est allé prendre possession."—John Drury, Esq. banker, of *Birchin-lane*. While driving with Mrs. Drury in his curricule upon Finchley Common, the horses took fright and overturned them, when he was killed on the spot. Mrs. Drury escaped unhurt.—In the *Fleet Prison*, Mrs. Dickie, late a stationer in Fleet-street. He had been confined nearly five years in consequence of a verdict given against him for 700l. damages, for uttering defamatory words against Mr. Aris, the governor of Coldbath-fields prison. He has left a distressed widow and four children.—At *Hammersmith*, aged

aged 75, Samuel Moody, Esq. of Queen-square, Bloomsbury.—At *Queen's Elm*, Chelsea, Mrs. Fitzgerald, wife of Thomas Fitzgerald, Esq. late of Ivy Bridge, Devonshire.—In *Huns-place*, Sloane-street, Mrs. Cowell, wife of Lieut. Colonel Cowel, late of the first battalion of Royals.—At *Bow*, the Rev. Wm. James French, Rector of Vange, in Essex, and Chaplain to the Elder Brethren of the Trinity.—In the Rules of the *King's Bench* prison, Henry Edwin Allen Caulfield, Esq. once "the gayest of the gay," and celebrated in the *Beau Monde* for his personal and elegant accomplishments. He was the son of a Major Caulfield, in the North of Ireland, a relative of the house of Charlemont. At a very early age he obtained a commission in the Guards, but having obtained much celebrity as an amateur tragedian, he exchanged the sash and gorget for the buskin, and appeared as *Hamlet* at Covent Garden theatre with some success. Being unfortunately implicated in a *crim. con.* which from heavy damages involved him in pecuniary embarrassment, Captain Caulfield gradually declined in appearance, and grew so dejected as to bring on a consumption, which terminated in his premature decease. Among his other accomplishments he was esteemed the best skaiter that ever exhibited on the serpentine river.

BERKSHIRE.

Died. At *Abingdon*, aged 78, William Tomkins, Esq.—At *Lambourn*, Dolphin Price, Esq. a surgeon of great eminence: he had been professionally attending a young lady at Ramsbury, who died in his presence, which so affected him, that on his return he took to his bed and died in three days.—At *Shinfield*, near Reading, Mr. Joseph Norris. He had gone to attend the funeral of a neighbour, and after partaking of some refreshment, enquired what time they were to be at church; on being informed, he looked at the clock, and observed, that "they had an hour good." He then stretched himself in his chair and expired almost instantly.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

Married. At *Wexham*, Henry Cave, Esq. of Shenstone, Staffordshire, to Miss Ford, eldest daughter of Randle Ford, Esq.

Died. At *West Wycombe*, Sir John Chichester, Bart. of Youlston, in Devonshire.—At *Newlands*, Mrs. Winifred Jones, relict of the late Harford Jones, Esq. of Monmouth, and mother of Sir Harford Jones, Resident at Bagdad.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

On the first day of Michaelmas Term, the following gentlemen were chosen officers of the university for the ensuing year: Rev. G. A. Browne, M.A. of Trinity College, and Rev. George D'Oyly, M.A. of Bene't, *Proctors*; Rev. John Brown, M.A. of Trinity, and Rev. George D'Oyly, M.A. of Bene't, *Moderators*; William Hunt, Esq. M.A. of King's college, and Thomas Starkie, Esq. M.A. of Catherine-hall, *Taxors*; and Rev. Thomas Allsopp, B.D. of Emanuel, and Rev. Robert Woodhouse, M.A. of Caius college, *Scrutators*. The following are the members of the *Caput*: The Vice Chancellor, the Rev. William Pearce, D.D. Jesus college, *Dicinity*; the Rev. Joseph Jowett, LL.D. Trinity-hall, *Law*; Sir Isaac Pennington, M.D. St. John's, *Physic*; the Rev. Thomas Veasey, B.D. Peterhouse, *Sen. Non Regent*; and the Rev. George Renonard, M.A. of Sidney, *Sen. Regent*.

The Latin declamation prize at Trinity college is this year adjudged to Mr. Musgrave.

Messrs. William Bolland, John Goodrich, John Carr, and Joseph Kirkman Miller, Bachelors of Arts, of Trinity college, are elected Fellows of that society.

The Rev. Edward Newton Walter, B.A. late of St. John's college, curate of Prittwell, in Essex, is presented to the rectory of Leigh, in that county, vacated by the death of the Rev. J. D. Hodge.

Died. At *Croxton*, aged 80, Joseph Leeds, Esq.—At *Stitchworth*, the Rev. Mr. Symonds, vicar of that parish and of Swaffham-Bulbeck.

CHESHIRE.

CHESHIRE.

A general meeting of the Manchester Agricultural Society was held on the 7th ult. at the Unicorn inn, in Altringham, the Right Hon. the Earl of Stamford and Warrington in the chair, when the following prizes were adjudged: To William Smith, of Worsley, for improving the greatest quantity of waste land, a silver cup, value *seven guineas*; James Walker, of Pilkington, for a long horned bull, a cup, value *five guineas*; John Lowe, of Warburton, for a short horned bull, a cup, value *two guineas*; Thomas Stanbank, of Sunderland, for a stallion for the general purposes of husbandry, a cup, value *seven guineas*; Michael Bott, of Nantwich, for a Suffolk stallion, a cup, value *twelve guineas*; and for the best boar, another cup, value *five guineas*; Samuel Oldknow, Esq. of Mellor, for the best ram, a cup, value *seven guineas*; W. H. Worthington, of Sandyway, for the best pen of three yearling Leicester ewes, a silver cup, value *five guineas*; William Egerton, Esq. of Tatton Park, for the best pen of yearling Southdown ewes, a cup, value *five guineas*; and to Joseph Wagstaff, of Hattersley, for thirty-two years service as a farm-servant in one place, a premium of *five guineas*.

Married. At Chester, Edward Barnes Watson, Esq. of the royal navy, eldest son of J. B. Watson, Esq. of Terrick-hall, in Shropshire, to Miss Watson, eldest daughter of William Watson, Esq. of Belvidere, in this county.—Lord Charles Bentinck, third son of the Duke of Portland, to the Hon. Miss Seymour. The ceremony was scarcely performed, when his Lordship received orders to join his regiment, now going on foreign service, on which he set out for Falmouth immediately.—At Alderley, the Rev. Henry Law, LL.B. vicar of Standon, Herts, to Elizabeth, second daughter of William Hibbert, Esq. of Clapham, Surry.

Died. At Chester, Mrs. Rathbone, wife of T. Rathbone, Esq.—At Parkgate, aged 78, James Perry, Esq. of Wolverhampton.

CORNWALL.

At Somercourt Michaelmas Fair, samples of nearly 30,000 weight of wool were produced. Some very fine fleeces from the flocks of Lord Falmouth, Sir Christopher Hawkins, Mr. Gwatkin, Mr. Roberts, of Newlyn, and others, were exhibited. The woolstaplers, however, seem to discourage the sale of wool in the open competition of a fair, thinking it more their interest, perhaps to make private purchases from the farmers, of fine and coarse wool at one and the same price. The object of the gentlemen and farmers we apprehend, is to obtain a fair price for their wool in proportion to its quality and fineness. —The Agricultural Society, by recommending the establishment of wool fairs, and by the sale of wool at 16 ounces to the pound, as in other counties, instead of 18 ounces, as commonly sold in Cornwall, to the prejudice of the farmer, have in view to obtain a price adequate to the quality of the wool: and, as Cornwall is particularly well adapted to the produce of fine wool, it is probable that, by obtaining a better price for their fine wool, the quantity of fine-woolled sheep would be greatly increased, and the commons and waste lands very much improved, to the great benefit of the community.

Died. At Pool Hall, near Liskeard, Miss Hambly, only daughter of J. Hambly, Esq. whose loss will be long and painfully regretted by her relatives and all who had the pleasure of being intimately acquainted with her, as well as by the poor in her neighbourhood, to whom she was a kind benefactress.

CUMBERLAND.

The Workington festivities commenced on Tuesday the 4th of October. The members who attended the Hunt and Agricultural Meeting were more numerous than upon any former occasion. On Thursday a very large party of gentlemen and farmers, from various parts of the kingdom, attended at the Schoose, to inspect the farm of J. C. Curwen, Esq. M. P. and to view the different implements of an experiment to determine the relative increase of weight between soiling and grazing: the trial commenced the 14th of May, and was concluded on the 5th inst. The animal soiled had gained 16st. the one

one grazed 9st. 9½lbs. Six Highlands, which were tied up on the 29th of June, had on an average, encreased 8st. or a pound and a half a day. The animal grazed was allowed an acre; the green food consumed by the animal soiled, was not the sixth part of the two cuttings of a good acre of clover. On Friday morning, an astonishing concourse of people assembled at an early hour at the Schoose, to view the prize-cattle, which were numerous, (and many excellent specimens of the long-horned breed in particular.) The farming implements attracted much notice, as did the ploughing match. After dinner, the wetness of the afternoon obliged the party to adjourn to the assembly rooms for the purpose of distributing the premiums, which were adjudged as follows: For the best managed farm, a cup value 10 guineas. Mr. John Hetherington.—For the best stallions to be shewn at Wigton and Cockermouth, a cup value 5 guineas, Mr. Kendal and Mr. Shepherd. For planting, a cup value 5 guineas, E. L. Irton, Esq. For draining, a cup value 5 guineas, John Hodgson and C. Wilson. For ditto, for less than 30 acres, 3 guineas, John Walker. For the cottager who shall have brought up the greatest number of children, without parochial assistance, 5 guineas, H. Corrie, 12 children. For the second best deserving, 2 guineas, Wm. Armstrong, 9 children. For the male servant in husbandry, who shall have remained the greatest number of years in his last place, 2 guineas, James Oughterson, 47 years. For the female ditto, 2 guineas, Jane Glendinning, 45 years. For the best long-horned heifer, a cup value 5 guineas, Roger Williamson, Esq. For the second best ditto, 3 guineas, Joseph Benn, Esq. For the third best ditto, 1 guinea, Matthew Atkinson, Esq. For the best horse, a cup value 5 guineas, Mr. Savage. For the best long-horned bull, a cup value 5 guineas, Mr. Benn. For the best bull, not of the long or short-horned breed, a cup value 3 guineas, Rev. Mr. Ellerton. For the best ploughman, 2 guineas, — Tinian. For the second best ditto, 1 guinea, J. Atkinson's man. For the third ditto, half-a-guinea, Isaac Curwen. For improved implements in husbandry, a cup value 5 guineas, John Spedding, Esq. For the best common turnip, a cup value 5 guineas, John Dixon, of Whitehall. For the best Swedish ditto, 3 guineas, G. Atkinson, Esq. For enclosing waste land, a cup value 5 guineas, John Machell, Esq. For soiling, a cup value 5 guineas, Mr. T. Jackson.—Several premiums given by the President, and by individual members of the Society, were also adjudged, and before the meeting broke up, a superb vase was presented to the President, by the Manx branch of the society, with the following inscription: "To John Christian Curwen, Esq. M. P. Member of the House of Keys, and President to the Agricultural Society in the Isle of Man: In grateful acknowledgement of his strenuous and successful efforts in Parliament, in defence of their country's rights and independence, and of the benefits which their Agriculture has received from his protection and his example: this tribute of their respect is presented by the Natives of the Isle of Man. 1808."

Died. At *Carlisle*, James Campbell, Esq. Lieut. Colonel of the 91st foot; inspecting field officer of the Cumberland district. A few days previous to his death, he rode out attended by his servants with dogs, for the purpose of taking a day's shooting: at the village of Stanwix, about a mile north of Carlisle, the servants uncoupled the dogs, at which time Colonel Campbell was mounting his poney. The horse started in consequence of one of the dogs playfully leaping up before it, and the Colonel was thrown to the other side, where he pitched upon his head. He was taken up apparently not much hurt, conveyed home in a post chaise, and medical assistance immediately procured. The wound was not considered as of a dangerous nature, but notwithstanding the utmost exertions of the medical gentlemen employed, it proved fatal. He has left a widow and seven children.—At *Whitehaven*, Mrs. Birketts, wife of John Birketts, Esq.—aged 69, Mrs. Walker, relict of the late John Walker, Esq.—At *Skinwith*, Mr. John Spedding, an eminent farmer, and within four hours afterwards, Mrs. Spedding his wife. On the Tuesday following they were both buried in the same grave.—Mr. Walter, of Wampole. In attempting to walk across a lime kiln, that had been burning some days, the chalk gave way, when he sunk down, and his body was consumed to ashes.

DERBYSHIRE.

Married. At *Bolsover*, George Grant, Esq. of Waltham Place, Berks, to Miss Frances Stanley Allen, daughter of the late James Huberston Allen, Esq.

DEVONSHIRE.

Married. At *Exeter*, Thomas Stoker, Esq. of London, to Miss Parkes, late of Heavitree.—At *East Anstey*, Abraham Smith, Esq. of Tresbear, to Miss Barnes, only daughter of the late John Barnes, Esq.

Died. At *Exeter*, aged 55, John Sheldon, Esq. F. R. S. and professor of anatomy in the Royal Academy, to which situation he was appointed in 1782.—Mr. Nicholas Geare, many years one of the proctors general of the episcopal consistorial court of that diocese.—At the parsonage house Lydford, aged 28, the Rev. James Couch Morgan, eldest son of Jonas Morgan, Esq. of Goodovishouse, near Tavistock.—At *Combe*, near Honiton, aged 72, Mrs. Pott, widow, of the late Rev. William Pott.—At *Coxside*, near Plymouth, Saville William Shepherd, Esq. eldest son of the late William Shepherd, Esq.

DORSETSHIRE.

An equestrian figure of his Majesty, on his favourite grey charger, has been formed in chalk, on the hills of Ormington estate, opposite Weymouth Bay. Although its length is 280 feet, and its height 320 feet, yet the likeness of the King is well preserved, and the symmetry of the horse complete.

Died. At *Weymouth*, Mr. Gegge, surgeon of the second Somerset militia, early in the morning he was found in the street, under the window of his lodgings, weltering in his blood, and quite dead. He had been spending the preceding evening in company, and it is thought that on his return home, finding the street-door locked, and being very active, in the gaiety of the moment he resolved to scale the chamber window, but missing his hold, fell back, and was killed by the fall.—At his Father's house at Upwood, Edward David Batson, Esq. banker, of Lombard-street, London.—At *Kingsbridge barracks*, William Hanham, Esq. captain in the Dorset militia, and second son of the late Sir James Hanham, Bart. of Deans-court.—At *Beaminster*, John Russell, Esq. attorney.

DURHAM.

On the 7th ult. sentence was passed by the Chancellor in the Consistory Court of Durham, in the long pending suit against the Rector of Rothbury. The decree is, that he be suspended for three years, and a sequestration of the rectory is ordered to be issued to the Rev. Mr. Maughan, of Banburgh Castle.

Married. At *Houghton-le-Spring*, Archibald Jerdon, Esq. of Bonjedward, to Miss Elizabeth Sarah Millner, youngest daughter of the late Robert Millner, Esq. of Barnes.—At *Gateshead*, the Rev. Robert Stoddart, pastor of Mulberry garden chapel, London, to Miss Jane Hood, daughter of Mr. Robert Hood.

Died. At *Durham*, Mrs Elphinston, widow of Alexander Elphinston, Esq. advocate of Edinburgh.

ESSEX.

A fire which was discovered between eleven and twelve at night upon the premises of Mr. R. Clark, of Cold Norton Hall, near Purleigh, has nearly consumed all the buildings upon that capital farm, except the dwelling-house and a stable. The farm-yard having been the preceding day littered with a great quantity of haulm, the flames soon communicated thereto, and also to the stack-yard, containing about sixteen stacks of wheat, oats, barley, and hay, which shortly after presented a scene awful in the extreme, the whole farm-yard

farm-yard and stack-yard, (which are very extensive) together with the buildings and stacks thereon, appearing enveloped in one general blaze. Messengers being dispatched, fire engines arrived in the morning from Maldon and Chelmsford; but so widely had the conflagration spread, that the efforts of all those which had been brought into action availed but little to abate its fury; a very small portion, therefore, of the produce of a most extensive farm, or of the buildings appertaining thereto (which have lately been erected at a considerable expence) escaped its overwhelming influence. The loss is supposed to be from 8 to 10,000l. a part only of which is insured.

Died. Mrs. Johnson, wife of the Rev. John Johnson, rector of Great Parndon, and daughter of the late J. Waters, Esq. of Hungerford Park, Berks, —At *Writtle Park*, aged 78, Mrs. Dearsley, relict of the late William Dearsley, Esq. of Rainham, and sister to the late Thackray Nightingale, Esq. of Roxwell.—At *West Ham*, James Anderson, of Mounie, in the county of Aberdeen, L.L.D. a man not less distinguished for the variety and depth of his literary attainments, than for that philanthropic zeal, in endeavouring to contribute to the welfare of mankind in general, and of this country in particular, which is manifest throughout his numerous writings on Agriculture, Political Economy, and other subjects of general interest.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Married. At *Charlton Kings*, William Ireland Newman, of Lassington Court, Esq. to Miss Lovesy, daughter of the late William Lovesy, Esq.—At *Frampton-upon-Severn*, the Rev. Powell Colchester Guise, Esq. to Maria, second daughter of N. Clifford, Esq. of Frampton Court.—At *Miserden Park*, Major-General Burr, in the service of the Hon. East India Company, to Miss Mary Davis, daughter of the late James Davis, Esq. of Chepstow, Monmouthshire.—At *Farmington*, J. E. Douglas, Esq. second son of Brigadier General Douglas, to Isabella Maria, eldest daughter of Thomas Willan, Esq.—At *Bibury*, the Rev. John Hughes, rector of North Tidworth, Wilts, to Miss Coxwell, eldest daughter of the Rev. Charles Coxwell, of Abington.

Died. At *Winstone*, aged 93, the Rev. John Longdon, rector of that parish, and perpetual curate of Barnwood and Flaxley. He had resided constantly at Winstone, for the long period of sixty-six years, and assiduously performed his clerical duties, till prevented by infirmity. The powers of a well informed mind, and a retentive memory, were displayed in his latest conversations with his friends. Though not afflicted with any severe previous illness, he had been for some time sensible of his approaching dissolution, and met it with the pious fortitude of those "who die in the Lord."—At *Clifton*, Mrs. Rochfort, wife of John Stainton Rochfort, Esq. of Cloghrennan, Ireland, and daughter of Sir Horace Mann, Bart.—At *Upper Slaughter*, the Rev. Ferdinando Tracy Travel, A. M. He had been rector of that parish forty four years, and in the various branches of christian duty, was excelled by few; he was a kind relation, a generous benefactor, and a zealous Divine; when incapable of edifying his parishioners from the pulpit, he improved them by his writings, which taught them how to live, while his resignation through a long and painful illness, shewed them how to die.

HAMPSHIRE,

Married. At *Romsey*, Lewis William, Esq. of Pentwin, Brecon, to Miss Brice, late of Southampton.—At *Yarmouth*, in the isle of Wight, the Rev. A. W. Eyre, of Marple, in Cheshire, to Miss Sarah Mapleton, of Yarmouth.—At *Carisbrook*, in the Isle of Wight, Capt. Short, of the Royal Navy, to Anna Maria, youngest daughter of the late Philip Ballard, Esq. of Newport.—At *Gosport*, Archibald Fleming, jun. of Abbyville, in the county of Sligo, Esq. to Miss Larking, eldest daughter of Capt. John Larkin, of the royal Navy.

Died. At *South Baddesley*, near Lymington, aged 79, John Waller, Esq. one of the verderers of Windsor Forrest, a justice of the peace for Hampshire and Berks, and many years major of the Berkshire militia,

HEREFORDSHIRE

HEREFORDSHIRE.

Died. At *Wootton*, near *Leominster*, aged 82, *Mr. Edward Hornsett*, late of the *Cinders*, near *Tenbury*, two days afterwards his son *George*, aged 37, and on the day following *Mrs. Hornsett*, his wife, aged 76.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

On Friday, the 18th ult. the *Herts Agricultural Society* met in a field near the town of *Hertford*, where the ploughs, twelve in number, which had been entered for the prize offered by the Society, were contending, and the stock was shewn. Better ploughing, perhaps, was scarcely ever witnessed; and the stock, consisting of *South Down* and mixed *Merino* sheep, and pigs of the *Suffolk* breed, was highly creditable to the respective breeders.—*Lord Somerville*, too, with that zeal for which his Lordship is so eminently conspicuous in all matters relating to the breed and improvement of stock, had a beautiful ram and ewes in the field, for the inspection of the company. The principal prize, that for the best plough, was awarded to *Mr. T. J. Rooke*, farmer, of *Bengeo*, for his *Hampshire* plough. Premiums of Five Guineas each for the best *South Down* ram and ewes were adjudged to the *Earl of Bridgewater*, the president, who presented the money to the society.—And a premium for the best ewes of the mixed *Merino* breed to *Mr. S. Fordham*, besides premiums of pigs, &c. and one of three guineas to the labourer in husbandry, who had brought up the largest family without parochial assistance, adjudged to *J. Philpot*, of *Hunsdon*, were two of two guineas each to the male and female servant in husbandry, who had lived the longest time in their respective services, and had conducted themselves in the most exemplary manner. There was no female competitor.—Of the male competitors, *William Hall*, of *Ware*, in the service of *Mr. Walford*, of *Amwell*, had the prize.

After the dinner, which the company, about one hundred in number, set down to in the *Shire-hall*, two very handsome cups, gained as prizes, at the meeting in June, one by the *Earl of Bridgewater*, for the best plough, and by him presented to *Mr. Plenty*, the maker; and the other, by *Mr. Flower*, of *Hertford*, for the best mixed *Merino* sheep then shewn, were produced by the treasurer, and presented by the president to *Mr. Plenty* and *Mr. Flower*. The whole business of the meeting was conducted and concluded to the satisfaction of every one present.

We gladly take occasion to correct an account inadvertently copied into our last number, p. 366, relative to a piece of antiquity, discovered in the church-yard of *Hemel-Hemstead*. The real fact is thus related in a letter sent to us by *Wm. Bingham*, D. D. Archdeacon of *London*, and Vicar of *Hemel-Hemsted*. "Very soon after the stone coffin, alluded to, was dug up in the church-yard of *Hemel-Hemsted*, *Mr. Agnesworth*, one of the church-wardens, came and related the circumstance to me. I desired that the bones might again be immediately interred, and that I would with him examine the coffin, which I did the next day in his presence. There was, upon the closest investigation, neither inscription, nor date upon it in any part; the coffin itself was so far from being curiously carved, that it was as rough and unshewn a thing of the kind, as I ever saw. It appeared to me, by its inside shape, to have contained the corpse of a woman. I directed it to be placed in a part of the chancel, that if any one chose to see it they might. If any shilling has been received for shewing it, it must have been the perquisite of the clerk, and not of the curate; neither is there any curate of the name you mention."

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

Married. At *Glatton*, the *Rev. G. Clough*, to *Miss Austin*, of *Hamerton*.

KENT.

The improvements of the Pier at *Margate* are at length determined upon.
The

The subscription books were closed last week, when there appeared to have been collected no less a sum than 26,000*l*. This sum is to be expended in securing the barrier and extending the pier 200 feet beyond its present boundaries.

Married. At *Canterbury*, the Rev. William Bennet, vicar of Stone, in the isle of Oxney, and one of the minor canons of that cathedral, to Elizabeth, second daughter of the Rev. William Chafy, rector of Swalecliff.—At *Rochester*, Joseph Hardy Jackson, Esq. of the 4th Dragoon Guards, to Augusta, second daughter of John Owlet, Esq. of Leeds.—At *St. Laurence*, in the Isle of Thanet, David Rainier, Esq. of Hackney, to Miss Sarah Mayhew, of Ramsgate.—At *St. Paul's*, Deptford, W. E. Rolfe, jun. Esq. of Bedford-place, Russel-square, to Miss Louisa Nicholson, of Loampit Hall, Kent.—At *Gravesend*, Lieut. Mackay, of the Royal Marines, son of Major Mackay, of Tilbury Fort, to Miss Pattison, daughter of the late — Pattison, Esq.—At *Lewisham*, Thomas Cox, Esq. of Bermondsey, to Miss Batley, eldest daughter of William Batley, Esq. of Blackheath.—At *Ashford*, the Rev. John Nance, A. M. Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, to Ann, fifth daughter of the Rev. James Bond, vicar of Ashford.

Died. At *Barham*, Edward Dering, Esq. eldest son of Sir Edward Dering, of Suren-den.—At *Canterbury*, aged 80, Mr. James Powell, of Dover-street.—At *Godmersham Park*, Elizabeth, wife of Edward Austen, Esq.—At *Brompton*, Miss Jennings of Hawkhurst, only daughter of the late Joseph Jennings, Esq. of Fenchurch-street, London.—At *Ramsgate*, the Rev. Mr. Vickers, Vicar of St. Lawrence's church, Cateaton-street, London, on a visit to Ramsgate. He had dined with a party of friends at the London Hotel, and parted with them in the evening to go to Burgess's library, where, after having sat some time reading the papers, he went out about ten o'clock, unaccompanied by any other person, to walk on the East Pier Head, (his regular custom previous to retiring to rest:) he had got nearly to the extremity of the Pier, at which place Sir William Curtis's pleasure yacht lay moored alongside, when in looking over at her, the night being dark, he stepped too far, and fell between the vessel and the wall (against both which he is supposed to have struck in his descent into the water,) a height of about 30 feet, and was taken up with several bones broken, and otherwise so dreadfully bruised and lacerated, that he expired about three hours afterwards.—At *the Court Lodge*, Appledore, (where he was on a visit) aged 32, the Rev. Joseph Dane Gilman, late of Magdalen College, Cambridge, A. B. He was a young man possessed of the most generous heart, and performed his clerical duties with the utmost propriety. Two years since he was curate of Appledore, which he quitted in consequence of ill health. As his virtues were well known, and acknowledged by that neighbourhood, his death is sincerely lamented by the whole parish. Mr. Gilman was a native of Grenada, but received the first rudiments of education, at Northfleet, in this county, and had crossed the Atlantic several times.

LANCASHIRE.

A very singular and highly interesting experiment is trying by Mr. Rigby, who resides near Lancaster:—He got in an early crop of barley this summer, which, from its sowing to getting in was only seven weeks. He ploughed the land on which it grew with all possible speed, and then sowed it with barley again, and within these few days it had the appearance of a very excellent crop.

Married. At *Manchester*, William Coulborn, jun. Esq. of Liverpool, to Miss Eliza Olivant Rushton, daughter of Edward Rushton, Esq. of Sladecill.—The Rev. William Driver, to Mrs. Dorothy Lyton.—At *Lancaster*, David Campbell, M. D. of Kendal, to Miss Pedder.—At *Preston*, John Bone, Esq. of Billinge, near Wigan, to Miss Sarah Ball, of Rawcliffe Hall, near Garstang.

Died. At *Newhall*, Ashton, aged 31, Anna Maria Gerrard, wife of Sir William Gerrard, Bt. and daughter of Miles Stapleton, Esq. of York.—At *Ashurst*

Ashurst Hall, aged 96, Mr. Robert Bullen.—At *Stand*, in *Pilkington*, aged 82, Nathaniel Philips, Esq. late of *Manchester*.—At *Liverpool*, aged 104, Mrs. Margaret Porter, Houlding's-buildings.—At *Garstang*, aged 78, Mrs. Dolly Townsend. She had subsisted nearly twelve months, without nourishment, excepting a little wine and water.—At *Preston*, aged 33, John Seed. It was supposed he was the *least* man in this country, being little more than three feet in height.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

The annual meeting of the members of the Leicestershire and Rutlandshire Agricultural Society, was held on Friday the 14th, at the Crown Inn, Leicester, the Earl of Moira in the chair:—the meeting was most respectably attended. Mr. Hose, of Melton, produced several samples of wool from crosses with the Merino breed; one in particular from a new Leicester ewe and Merino ram, for the wool of which, if produced in any quantity, he had been offered by some eminent manufacturers double the value of the price for Leicestershire wool.

Married. At *Leicester*, the Rev. Charles Arnold, vicar of Roydon, Essex, to Anna, eldest daughter of Thomas Buxton, Esq.

Died. At *Market Harborough*, Mrs. Letitia Periam, relict of the Rev. George Periam, A. M. rector of Lathbury, Bucks.—At *Leicester*, aged 84, Mrs. Maddox. During the latter part of her life, she honourably discharged a profession which necessity had imposed on her, that of educating young children. For some time before her death she was unable to perform her professional duties, but the friends she had gained by her attentive assiduity to their children, never forgot what they owed her. A liberal maintenance was provided for her, which enabled her to spend the remainder of her life with comfort and satisfaction. As she lived beloved, so she died regretted.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

Died. At *Stamford*, aged 82, Mrs. Martha Shield, widow of the late Henry Shield, Esq. of *Preston*, in *Rutlandshire*.—At *Somersby*, aged 68, William Burton, Esq.—At *North Collingham*, John Pym, Esq.—At *Frampton House*, near *Boston*, Elizabeth, the wife of John Finnard, Esq.—At *Wyham*, near *Louth*, aged 41, John Grant, Esq. one of the most extensive farmers and graziers in *Lincolnshire*; having nearly 10,000 acres of land in occupation at the time of his death.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

Died. Mrs. Blewitt, wife of Major Blewitt, of *Lantarnam Abbey*.—Mr. Wade of *Mudget farm*, near *Chepstow*. In attempting to turn a bull out of the fold-yard: the animal became enraged, and attacked him so furiously, that he died of the wounds he received in a few days afterwards.

NORFOLK.

Shelford Bedwell, Esq. is elected Mayor of *Thelford*, for the ensuing year. After the election, the Corporation and more respectable inhabitants of the borough were entertained as is customary. The sources from which the dinner was (as usual) derived, are not unworthy of record. The roast beef is provided by the Town Clerk; the boiled beef by the Tenant of the Tolls of the Navigation; the geese by the Tenant of the Bridge Tolls; the game and wine is provided by the Mayor elect; and the Keeper of the Tavern adjacent to the Guildhall, finds the plum puddings, as this is an immemorial custom in the above very antient borough, may it not have been the origin of the present fashionable *Pic Nic*.

Died. At *Norwich*, the Rev. John Beever, Rector of Great and Little Burlingham, and of Scarning, all in this county.—At *Thetford*, aged 41, William Wisson Baker, Esq. one of the common council of that borough.—At *Yarmouth*,

Yarmouth, Capt. Richard Harford, of his Majesty's sloop *Chanticleer*, Mr. John Poor, Midshipman; Thomas Carey, Captain's coxswain; and James Lowe, a seaman. The ship's boat in which they were going on shore upset, and they were unfortunately drowned. Capt. Harford was a very fine young man, and an able officer, and belonged to the respectable family of that name at Bristol, who will, no doubt, severely feel his loss. He was uncommonly esteemed by his ship's company; there was not a dry eye on board when the melancholy news was made known to them. Capt. Harford was not aware of Admiral Douglas's general orders, strictly forbidding boats coming on shore, or going off, after sunset, or when the foul weather flag is up, as he only arrived the same day. "His untimely end, it is hoped, will be a warning to others on this station, as *Yarmouth* is a dreadful place to land at; and notwithstanding uncommon pains have been taken to prevent accidents, officers will run great risks to land. It is said the Admiralty have it in contemplation to allow a shore boat to attend the ships, which will be ordered to anchor without the surf, and many lives will no doubt thereby be preserved during the winter, and the men of war's boats kept in good order for other service."—Aged 60, William Downes, Esq. surgeon, whose loss is greatly regretted in that neighbourhood. By his will he has bequeathed donations of 200*l.* to each of the following charitable institutions: the Norfolk and Norwich Benevolent Medical Society; the Charity for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergymen in Norfolk; and the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

At the anniversary meeting of the Northampton General Infirmary for the relief of the sick and lame poor of all counties, there was a great appearance of Governors and Subscribers, at the George Inn, (Lord Viscount Althorp, M. P. in the chair,) when the report of its present state of the patients admitted and discharged, (viz. 778 in, and 1280 out patients, of which 1783 were perfectly cured,) and of the monies received and paid, within the last year, was laid before them, and they expressed their satisfaction, with the management of this noble charity, by which 42,288 persons have been cured, and 5678 relieved, since the foundation of the old county hospital in 1744. After which the Governors and Subscribers walked in procession to the parish church of All Saints, when a sermon was preached, on the occasion, by the Rev. R. Cherton, Rector of Middleton Cheney, from *Phillippians* iii. 16. "Whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the above rule, let us mind the same thing." A collection was afterwards made at the church doors as usual, amounting to 94*l.* 11*s.*

Orders have been issued for the formation of a grand depot of artillery and ammunition at Weedon, as being the most central part of the kingdom. A large portion of the artillery will be drawn from the southern district, and it is understood that the depot, when formed, will be second only, in point of magnitude, to the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich.

Died. At *Duddington*, John Smith, M. D. He was of an antient family in North Britain, and after serving several years as surgeon in the navy, settled at Uppingham, in Rutlandshire, in the same house where two of his immediate predecessors, and countrymen (Drs. Fordyce and Garthshore) had been so successful as to establish themselves afterwards with eminence in London, as Physicians.—He was for many years in extensive and very creditable practice in the principal families of the town and neighbourhood; punctual and indefatigable in his profession; and in addition to his medical services, ever charitable to the poor.—At *Harleston*, aged 65, the Rev. Gilbert Andrew, who had been Rector of that parish thirty-six years.—At *Peterborough*, aged 76, Mr. Brian Betham, Surgeon and Apothecary: he had practised in that city and neighbourhood upwards of fifty years.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Died. At *Blackhall*, in Hexhamshire, John Featherstone, Esq.—his urbanity of manners, added to a cheerful, communicative, and friendly disposition, endeared

endeared him to a numerous circle of friends and acquaintance.—At *Newcastle*, aged 88, Mr. William Williamson, many years Governor of the Freeman's Hospital.—At *Sharden-Braes*, near Corbridge, aged 103, Mrs. Hodshon. She retained her faculties till within a few days of her death.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

Married. At *Harworth*, Robert Pemberton Milnes, Esq. M. P. of Fryston, Yorkshire, to the Hon. Henrietta Maria Monckton, second daughter of Viscount Gallway.

Died. At *Nottingham*, aged 52, Mr. William Cutts, Attorney at Law.—At *East Retford*, aged 70, after a confinement of five years, Mr. George Haggerstone, Liquor Merchant.—Alexander Emmerson, Esq. late of West Retford House, in Nottinghamshire, brother to the late Sir Wharton Amcotts, Bt. of Kettlethorpe-park.

OXFORDSHIRE.

His Grace the Duke of Portland, Chancellor of the University, has appointed as his Vice Chancellor for the ensuing year, the Rev. John Parsons, D.D. Master of Balliol College, who has nominated for Pro-Vice Chancellors, the Rev. Michael Marlow, D.D. President of St. John's College, the Rev. Whittington Langdon, D.D. Provost of Worcester College; the Rev. David Hughes, D.D. Principal of Jesus College, and the Rev. John Cole, D.D. Rector of Exeter College.

The Rev. Charles Philipps, M. A. Vicar of Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, and the Rev. James Evans, M. A. Chaplain of his Majesty's ship *Aboukir*, both of Jesus College, are elected Fellows of that Society.

The Rev. John Salter and John Williams, of Exeter College; Rev. John Collins of Jesus; Rev. John Rowland Berkeley and Mr. George Valentine Cox, of New College, and Rev. William Grinfield, of Lincoln College, B. A. are admitted Masters of Arts; and, Messrs. William Field of Queens College, and Henry James Parsons, and Francis Swan, of Magdalen College; Bachelors of Arts.

The Rev. Samuel Smith, Canon of Christ Church, is instituted to the Rectory of Dry Drayton, in Cambridgeshire, and the Rev. Daniel Davies, B. D. Fellow of Jesus College, to the Vicarage of Martlew, near Haverford-west.

Died. At *Oxford*, aged about 90, at the house of her son, the Rev. the Warden of All Souls College.—Mrs. Isham, relict of the late Rev. Eusebius Isham, and mother of Sir Justinian Isham, of Lamport, Northamptonshire.—Aged 78, Mrs. Cailland, wife of Brigadier General Cailland; of Aston-Rowant. Possessed of a vigorous, and highly cultivated mind, and uncommon benevolence of heart, her long and useful life was passed in promoting the happiness of her numerous friends, and in administering to the necessities of the poor. Her affection to her family, her attachment to her husband, and her piety to her maker, were most exemplary. She was in short possessed of every estimable, and every endearing quality, which contributed to the perfection of the female character.

SHROPSHIRE.

Married. At *Shrewsbury*, Mr. William Wood, solicitor, to Miss Peele, daughter of Henry Peele, Esq.—At *Cardington*, John Russell, Esq. of Eachmarsh, aged 94, to Mrs. Elizabeth Causton, aged 57.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

The following is the substance of the report of the Committee of the Public Dispensary at Wiveliscombe.

Patients admitted from the commencement of the institution in 1804, to	
1st January, 1807	2617
From 1st January, 1807, to 1st January, 1808	633

3250

of which there have been discharged cured 2630, benefitted 336, on the books,
more

more than three months, 122, not benefitted 41, for improper conduct 30, dead 26, remaining on the books 65; 952 patients were admitted for diseased eyes, and 279 for diseased ears, and there were 1212 cases which required the assistance of Galvanism. The total expence from the commencement of the institution amounts to 1152l. 19s. 4d.

At the late sale of Lord Portchester's Merino Ryland flock at Pixton, near Dulverton, though but few purchasers attended, they went off at the following high prices:—

50 Full-mouthed Merino Ryland Ewes, in five lots, fetched . . .	1.130	0	0
55 Four-toothed ditto	166	16	0
60 Merino Ryland Sheerland Ewes	179	16	0
9 Merino Rams, of the pure blood	151	0	0

The purchasers were Mr. Acland, Col. Clochester, Messrs. Herbert, Hicks, Anderson, Gooding, Coffin, and Peppen.—A few very old cast-off Merino Ewes, of the pure blood, fetched from 6l. to 7l. each.—Lord Porchester exhibited twenty beautiful Ewes from his pure Merino flock, not for sale, but as a specimen of the improvement in those sheep. His Lordship was offered 400 guineas for the twenty, or 50 guineas to select one, which he rejected, not intending to sell.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

Married. William Crampton, Esq. of Crewkerne, to Ann, youngest daughter of the late Hacker Parker, Esq. of Hoton, Leicestershire.—At *Bath*, Charles Kelson, Esq. to Mrs. Leversage, widow of P. Leversage, Esq. of Middle Lypiatts, Gloucestershire.—Major Wharton, of the 60th Regiment, to Miss Sarah Slade, of George-street.—At *Bristol*, Alexander Townsend, Esq. of Therscombe, Gloucestershire, to Miss Clayfield, youngest daughter of the late Michael Clayfield, Esq. of Bristol.—At *Wiveliscombe*, Lacy Yea, Esq. of Oakhampton-house, to Miss Margaret Duff, of Elgin in Moray.—At *Walcot*, Major Daubeny, of the 84th Regiment, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Archdeacon Daubeny.

Died. At *Bath*, Col. Landez, of Brinwellwh near Swansea, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, and a deputy lieutenant for the county of Glamorgan.—Mrs. Deane, relict of the late Rev. Robert Deane, rector of Barwick, in Elmot, Yorkshire.—At *West Camel*, John White Parsons, Esq. well known as an experimental agriculturist.—At *Yeovil*, aged 37, William Hooper Masters, Esq.—At *Ashcott*, aged 75, Mr. John Trutch. It has happened to few men in his station of life to be so well known, and so well beloved and respected. He had for many years retired from business on a competency acquired with the most unexceptionable character, and through life he retained the esteem due to an honest, unpresuming, benevolent, and friendly man. He had survived Mrs. Trutch only one year, and the loss of both will long continue a subject of regret to all who knew them.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

Married. At *Litchfield*, Charles Holland Hastings, Esq. Major of the 63rd. regiment, to Miss Mary Gardner, youngest daughter of the late Lieut.-general Gardner, Commander of the forces in Nova Scotia.

Died. At the *Hollies*, near Enville, John Hale, Esq.

SUFFOLK.

Married.—At *Felsham*, A. C. Reeve, Esq. of Wiston Grove, to Miss Newman, only daughter of the late R. Newman, Esq. of Kersey.

Died. Mrs. Ann Barry, of Syleham. She was seized with an apoplectic fit whilst in her carriage going out to dinner, and on calling on a friend at Harleston, was found lying at the bottom thereof, and on being taken out, survived little more than an hour.—At *Eye*, aged 60, Robert Taylor, Esq. one of the Common Council for the Borough: a benevolent and highly re-

spected character. At *Washbrook*, William Heysing Mayer, Esq. late of South Lambeth.—At *Bury*, aged 54, Thomas Dickenson, Esq. an assistant Magistrate, and one of the burgesses of the corporation.

SURREY.

Married. At *Lambeth*, John Lyon, Esq. of Belmont Grove, Vauxhall, to Mrs. Ann Jones, widow of the late Captain Robert Jones, formerly of the East-India Country service.—At *Mitcham*, Thomas Heaton Norris, Esq. of Muswell Hill, to Miss S. Dempster, eldest daughter of Mr. James Dempster, of Baron House.

Died. At *China Terrace, Lambeth*, aged 82, William Smith, Esq.—At *Rochampton*, Mrs. Ann Catherine Markham, sixth daughter of the late Archbishop of York.—At *Clapham*, Mrs. Clementson, relict of the late John Clementson, Esq. Deputy Serjeant at Arms.—At *Newington Terrace*, Mrs. Stokes, widow of the late Nehemiah Stokes, Esq. of Lombard-street, Banker.—At *Mitcham*, Mary Attwood, aged 14, Eliza, aged 7, and Sarah, aged 5 years, daughters of William Attwood, of Mitcham, print-cutter. A coroner's jury sat on the bodies, where it was deposed by Mr. Perrott, surgeon, that on Tuesday, the 11th inst. he was desired to visit William Attwood, his wife, and four daughters, who were supposed to be poisoned, in consequence of their having eaten stewed Champignons on the preceding day; that he visited them immediately, when he found each of them suffering under severe vomiting and purging, attended with great pain in the head and violent pain in the bowels; that he administered to them such remedies as appeared to him best calculated to get rid of the offending matter, as he knew of no method whereby vegetable poison could be decomposed; that he attended the said children till their respective deaths, which happened as follows:—Mary died at two o'clock on Friday morning, Eliza at half an hour after, and Sarah at half-past four on Saturday morning; that they died violently convulsed; that on opening the body of Sarah, who seemed to suffer the most excruciating pain in the bowels, no appearance of disease existed in any part of the alimentary canal; hence he inferred that the poison acted more immediately upon the brain and nerves.—A dog which had partaken of the same stew, died on Wednesday morning, apparently in great agonies. Mr. Attwood, his wife, and their daughter Hannah, aged 11 years, are recovering, the latter however, ate only two spoonfuls of the stew, alledging that she did not like its flavour.—It is here proper to remark that the stew was made in an iron vessel. The whole family were conscious of a species of intoxication within ten minutes after having eaten their deadly meal, and the eldest daughter observed to her father how cheerful they all were.—This exhilarating effect was soon followed by stupor, and the symptoms already described. From this statement of facts it is sincerely hoped that persons will in future be cautious of purchasing what are usually termed champignons, as these fungi are indiscriminately gathered off the commons in the vicinity of London, and sold at the London markets for the purpose of making catsup, with the addition of mushrooms.

SUSSEX.

Married. At *Parham*, the Hon. Robert Curzon, son of Viscount Curzon, and Member of Parliament for Clithero, to Miss Bishopp, daughter of Sir Cecil Bishopp.

Died. At *Woolbeding*, aged 64; the Rev. Charles Williams, rector of that parish, and of Kingston by the sea.—At *Brighton*, the Right Hon. Lady Alice Vernon, relict of Francis, Earl of Shipbrook.

WARWICKSHIRE.

The Magistrates of this county, at a late Session, came to a resolution, that statutes for hiring servants have a tendency to promote idleness and immorality among servants; and accordingly have recommended to masters of servants

vants in husbandry not to attend such meetings, nor to hire servants without characters.

By the accounts produced at the General Annual Meeting of the Subscribers to the Birmingham Sunday Schools, it appeared, that the number of children receiving instruction in the different schools amount to 1193, viz. 726 boys and 467 girls; that the contributions from October 1807 to October 1808, amounted to 258l. 0s. 8d. and the expences during the same period, to 227l. 13s. leaving a balance in hand of 30l. 7s. 8d.

The grand Triennial Musical Festival at Birmingham, for the benefit of the General Hospital, was productive beyond the most sanguine expectations. The receipts amounted to 5511l. 12s. 6d. and when the whole of the expences are paid, upwards of 3000l. it is expected will be left to the charity. The receipts in 1805, were 4222l. 6s. 4d. In 1802, 3820l. 17s. In 1799, 2550l. 0s. 6d. and in 1796, 2043l. 18s.

Died. At *Warwick*, aged 85, Mrs. Dorothy Mordaunt, half sister to the late Sir John Mordaunt, Bart.—At *Birmingham*, aged 78, Mr. J. Freeth, commonly called Poet Freeth, a facetious bard of nature, forty-eight years proprietor of Freeth's coffee-house, Bell-street, a house much frequented by strangers, as well as the inhabitants, where the "Poet" used in the evenings to entertain a large company with original songs composed on subjects of a public nature, replete with wit and humour. He was a man possessing an extensive fund of wit without acrimony, much esteemed by his friends, courted by strangers, and respected by a numerous circle of acquaintance.

WESTMORELAND.

The Earl of Lonsdale has signified his intention of enfranchising his numerous copyholders throughout Cumberland and Westmoreland, by which popular measure he will be enabled to inclose more than 20,000 acres of valuable land in those counties, at this time in a profitless state, in commonage.

Died. At *Houndhow*, near Kendal, aged 86, Mr. Edward Gibson.

WILTSHIRE.

Married. At *Pewsey*, Edward Hillier, Esq. of London, to Miss Liddale, eldest daughter of the late John Liddale, Esq.—At *East Knoyle*, George Law, Esq. of Lincoln's-inn, to Miss Still, eldest daughter of James Charles Still, Esq.

Died. At *Salisbury*, the Rev. John Ekins, rector of Newton-tony and Trowbridge, in Wilts, and upwards of twenty-two years dean of Salisbury cathedral. He had just completed his seventy-sixth year, and died much respected by all who knew him, on account of his many virtues and the general benevolence of his disposition. He was formerly of King's College, Cambridge, B. A. 1755, M. A. 1758.—At *Market Lavington*, John Roberts, Esq.—At *Clarendon Park*, Mrs. Bathurst, wife of Colonel Bathurst, late of the Blues.—At *Crickdale*, the Rev. Richard Purdy, D. D. formerly of Queen's-college, Oxford, after a long and painful illness, which he bore with truly christian fortitude and resignation. He was struck with a paralytic affection in January last, while addressing one of his pathetic discourses to his congregation; but he retained the perfect use of his faculties to the last. As an affectionate husband and parent, a sincere friend and intelligent pleasant companion, and as a valuable literary character, from whose pen other useful works might have been expected, his death may be considered both a public and a private loss, but most particularly by a large circle of deeply-afflicted relations and friends, who were sensible of his worth, must be long and sincerely lamented.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

Married. At *Ribbesford*, the Rev. John Cawood, M. A. curate of Ribbesford, and Master of Bewdley Grammar School, to Miss Crane, of Halls Barr, near Kidderminster.

YORKSHIRE.

YORKSHIRE.

Messrs. Webster and Co. of Wakefield, have suffered severely by a fire which broke out in their corn warehouse, about twelve o'clock at noon, in consequence of a tar-pan boiling over. With the utmost alacrity the volunteers, firemen, &c. with the engines, and a great number of the inhabitants, assembled on the spot, and used every exertion to stop its progress; but it soon raged with extreme violence, owing to the wind blowing strong, and in a direction that tended greatly to the spreading of the flames. About two o'clock a great part of the roof had fallen in, and the whole of the interior of the building appeared one immense body of fire, exhibiting to thousands of anxious spectators a sight truly awful!—One end of the warehouse and an adjoining building (late the mill of Messrs. Gill and Co.) were preserved, but very little of the corn (supposed, in the whole, nearly 5000 quarters,) was saved. It is understood that the damage sustained is upwards of 15,000*l.* and that not above one-third of the sum was insured.

Married. At York, Edward Robinson, Esq. of Monkend, to Ann, fourth daughter of the late Rev. Thomas Mosley, rector of Stonegrave. Alexander Milne, Esq. Major in the 15th regiment, to Miss Henrietta Belcombe, second daughter of W. Belcombe, M. D.—At *Darrington*, Captain Sotherton, R. N. of Kirklington Hall, Nottinghamshire, to Caroline Matilda, youngest daughter of Captain Barker, late of the 60th foot.—At *Kirby Ravensworth*, Marley Harrison, Esq. eldest son of the late Cornelius Harrison, Esq. of Stubb House, to Miss Margaret Hutchinson, youngest daughter of Francis Hutchinson, Esq. of Newsham.—At *Scarborough*, Richard Edenier Heathcote, of Longton Hall, in the county of Stafford, to Emma Sophia, second daughter of Sir Nigel Gresley, Bart. of Drakelow Park, Derbyshire.—At *Whitby*, Mr. Nathaniel Langborne, of that place, to Miss Widowfield, of Stokesley, grand-daughter of the late gallant Captain Hornby, of the ship Wrightson and Isabella, who, with five men and three boys, fought a French privateer of ten carriage and eight swivel guns, and seventy-five men, for six hours, when the latter blew up; for which gallant conduct he received a gold chain and medal from the hands of his late Majesty, George II. as a reward for his bravery.—At *Gesborough*, Charles Lloyd, Esq. major of the 66th regiment of foot, to Miss Emma Hale, ninth daughter of the late General Hale, of the Plantation.

Died. Benjamin Sayle, Esq. of *Wentbridge*. He was proceeding to the Farmer's club, at Bawtry, by one of the coaches, and previous to entering the place had pulled out his watch, when he suddenly fell back and expired. Mr. Sayle was many years a judicious improver of the Leicestershire breed of sheep, which through his means had been successfully introduced into the northern district of this county; he thus deservedly acquired great reputation, as a breeder of stock, while his inflexible integrity and social manners eminently distinguished him as a man, and will long endear his memory to a wide circle of respectable friends.—At *Hull*, the Rev. George Thompson, chaplain to the Trinity-house, vicar of Wawne, and curate of Sutton and Drypool.—At *York*, aged 83, Mrs. Mary Hayes, a niece of the late Dr. Warburton, Bishop of Gloucester.—At *Malton*, the Rev. John Ware, of Stockton, Captain Commandant of the Stockton Forest rifle corps.—At *Selby*, where he had sustained the office of Schoolmaster, with great respectability for upwards of sixty years, Mr. William Inebald. He was found drowned in the river Ouse, from the bank of which he is supposed unfortunately to have slipped, whilst taking his usual morning walk.—At *Sheffield*, suddenly, while at work in his garden, Mr. John Trippet, jun. of Garden Street.—At *Thorpe*, aged 91, William Anderson, Esq.—At *Whitby*, aged 26, Boynton Richardson, Esq.—At *Wakefield*, Richard Green, Esq. of Leventhorp House, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the North Riding.—At *Handsworth*, aged 84, Mr. Fr  re, surgeon.—At *Darlington*, aged 81, Loyzelure Wilkinson, Esq. formerly of Coatsamoor.

WALES.

The annual entertainment, established by Sir Watkin Williams Wynne for the

the meritorious purpose of improving the breed of cattle and sheep in the Principality, took place on Friday, the 16th of September, and was attended by the principal agriculturists and farmers in North Wales, and the adjoining counties. It gives us pleasure to state, that the increased number of claimants for the various prizes, and the improved appearance of the stock shewn, afforded the most ample testimony of the beneficial effects which may be expected to arise from this excellent institution. The morning was occupied in viewing the different animals at the farm, and the sale of 150 ewes, which averaged 45s. each; the company, nearly 500 in number, then adjourned to dinner at the house; after which, the prizes, consisting of seven silver cups, were adjudged and delivered to the successful claimants; and the letting of several South-down tups by auction closed the business of the meeting.

Nine statute acres of land in the parish of Laleston, Glamorganshire, has produced, this harvest 2,000 stacks or 20,000 sheaves of wheat; every three stacks or thirty sheaves, on an average, are expected to produce a Winchester bushel, which will be a return of seventy bushels for three and a half of seed.

The Governors of the Carmarthen Infirmary have published their report for the last twelve months, by which it appears, that the last year's subscription amounted to 364l. 5s. 9d. and the disbursements to 271l. 12s. 10d. leaving a balance in hand of 92l. 12s. 11d. From July 1807 to July 1808, 122 patients had been cured, 15 relieved, 14 discharged for non-attendance and irregular conduct, 22 remain on the books, and 12 have died. Total 85.

The spirit of improvement has of late years manifested itself vigorously in North Wales. Among those whose exertions have been of the greatest magnitude and importance, William Alexander Madocks, Esq. of Dolymlynlyn, in Merionethshire, may justly be reckoned. For the last six years this gentleman's attention to every plan which promised to be of public advantage, has never slackened; and the following improvements from his plans and under his inspection, have in that short period been executed, or so far advanced:—A new harbour at Porthdynlyn, whence a safe and constant passage may at all times be effected to Ireland, as there is sufficient water for passage-boats at ebb tide. This great undertaking, of which Mr. Jones Parry is also an eminent promoter, is very nearly completed, and a new road from this harbour to join the English roads, is in great forwardness, by which travellers from London to Dublin will save thirty miles, besides the time, delay, and danger of crossing the Conway and Bangor ferries: an improved line of perfectly level road, leading through the new town of Tre Madoc, and through much romantic and beautiful scenery, to Worcester and London, is also making, by which forty miles will be saved between Dublin, and Bath, Cheltenham, and the western towns. An excellent road marked out on the ground by Mr. Madocks himself, assisted by Dr. Morris, of Morva Lodge, on the sides of mountains so steep, that a man could scarcely walk upright, from Point Aberglasslyn, to the new town of Tre Madoc, is lately completed. This town, which is rapidly increasing, will, when finished, contain one street of a mile in length, and several cross streets of a quarter of a mile each, besides three squares. There are already built, a large church, a market-place, and elegant market-house, two excellent inns, and upwards of one hundred houses, all of grey granite, and covered with blue slate. A weekly market is established, with an annual fair and races. The ground it stands on, with some hundreds of acres adjoining, was gained from the sea by embanking in 1800. A considerable woollen manufactory has been established in the neighbourhood, and an improved tan-work, in which the tormentil is used. A harbour at Ynys Cognor is in great forwardness, and a canal from thence to the town of Tre Madoc, finished. About eight years ago, Mr. M. gained by embanking 1800 acres of land from the sea, the greater part of which now lets for from thirty to forty shillings an acre: another embankment is now begun of shore lands contiguous, by which 3500 acres of equal value will be gained. An iron rail-way will be placed on the top of the embankment, which will connect the counties of Carnarvon and Merioneth, before separated by this oozy inlet of the sea. Rocky spots and mountainous steepes, to a great extent, have been covered with wood, and every year considerable tracts of mountain

are

are inclosed and covered with larch, and so rapid has been the growth of these plantations, that the parts first inclosed are already worth from 60*l.* to 100*l.* an acre. The scarcity of wood in this part of Wales, and the importance of Ynys Cognor harbour, will render such plantations of immense value to the next generation. These public improvements are widely felt by the adjoining counties, and when the harbour and new roads are finished, the influx of wealth into this part of North Wales, will totally alter and improve the condition of the inhabitants.

The Caernarvonshire Agricultural Society, duly appreciating the importance of improvement, has appropriated a class of Premiums to Tenants only: those who have their farms in the best general state of cultivation, and in the neatest and most exact order as to fences, drains, &c. or who shall drain or improve the greatest quantity of land, or lay most manure, or raise and consume on the farms the best crops of turnips or cabbages, or lay down the greatest quantity of pasture or hay, or raise the greatest number of forest trees, will be entitled to premiums varying from 15 guineas to two guineas and a half.

Married. John Lort Phillips, Esq. of *Haverfordwest*, to Miss Augusta Ilbert, youngest daughter of the late William Ilbert, Esq. of Bownrighsleigh, Devon.—At *Towyn*, Merionethshire, Humphrey Owen, Esq. to Miss Jones, daughter of the late Mr. John Jones, of Esgairwen.—John Lort Philips, Esq. of Haverfordwest, to Miss Augusta Ilbert, youngest daughter of the late Wm. Ilbert, Esq. of Bownrighsleigh, in Devonshire.

Died. At *Gunley Hall*, the Rev. R. Price, vicar of Welsh-Pool and Forden.—At the *Gilsey*, near Presteign, aged 91, Mrs. Pyefinch.

SCOTLAND.

Mr. Garden, of Troup, with the gratuitous assistance of one hundred and thirty-seven Highlanders, has erected a rustic monument on the top of one of the highest mountains near his shooting quarter of Garden Shiel, in the county of Aberdeen, to the memory of Mr. Fox.

Married. At *Edinburgh*, Mr. George Cooke, of the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, to Miss Lambe.—At *Inverness*, the Rev. Dr. Griffith, Master of University college, Oxford, to Miss Ironside, daughter of the late Rev. William Ironside.—At *Broughton*, the Rev. Alexander Telfer, of Johnstone, to Helen, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Gray, of Broughton.—At *Ochertyre*, James Glassford, Esq. advocate, to Miss Murray, daughter of the late Sir William Murray.—At *Laggan*, the Rev. Lachlan M'Pherson, of Knockando, to Miss Pennel Grant.—At *Leckiebank*, Andrew Murray, younger, of Murrays hall, Esq. to Miss Thornton, daughter of the late Oliver Thornton, Esq.—At *West Fordell*, Alexander Garvie, Esq. of Rushyfield, to Miss Elizabeth Murray, of Creevy.

Died. At *Edinburgh*, Charles Inner, Esq. W. S.—John Rae, Esq. surgeon; being Captain Commandant of the company of Sharp-shooters, attached to the first battalion of the second regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers, his remains were interred with military honours.—On the 3d. October, at his house in Dunbar, John Forbes, Esq. late Major General in the service of the Hon. the East India Company, on the Bengal Establishment. He went out to India in the year 1761, and continued in actual and unremitting service, for more than 40 years, in the course of which he displayed an enterprising and gallant spirit in action, with most honorable moderation and integrity in the stations where he commanded during the intervals of peace. The consequence of which was, that he retired with a high character and moderate fortune. General Forbes was the youngest son of George Forbes, Esq. of Lochermick near Aberdeen, and was the maternal uncle of the late Mr. Professor Porson, and of Mr. Perry of Merton.—At *Granton*, (the seat of the Lord Justice Clerk) Charles Hope, Esq. commissioner of Chatham Dock-yard. He had spent the preceding evening with considerable hilarity, but soon after retiring to bed was seized with the gout in his stomach, which in a very short time terminated his existence, notwithstanding

standing every possible assistance was administered.—At *Falkirk*, aged 49, John Corbet, M. D. Possessed of an active mind, and impressed with a strong sense of the dignity and utility of his profession, he prosecuted with unwearied assiduity, medical science in all its parts. Botany, of which he had acquired an extensive knowledge, afforded him at all times a most agreeable relaxation from severer studies. He bore a conspicuous part in promoting the practice of vaccination by unceasing endeavours to introduce it in the circle of his practice soon after that happy discovery was communicated to the public. He has left a widow and seven children to lament in his early death, the loss of a most affectionate husband, and father; his loss is also deeply regretted, by many most respectable friends, and by the neighbourhood at large, who could at all times depend upon his exertions in their service, and placed the utmost confidence in his integrity and professional skill. In short, he was humane and upright in his department, and few are the deaths which have occasioned more general regret.

—At *Northbar*, aged 98, Elizabeth, third daughter of the late James M'Gilchrist, Esq.—At *Mount Teviot*, John Elliot, Esq. Admiral of the Red.—At *Glenkin*, Argyleshire, aged 90, Thomas Harkness, Esq. of Chachaig. He was thrice married, and has left behind him fourteen children, thirty-seven grand children, and sixteen great grand-children, in all sixty-seven descendants now living. He had the merit of being the first who introduced the present system of sheep-grazing into Cowal. This mode of farming, with a very inconsiderable capital, enabled him to amass so ample a fortune, that, by his death, five of his sons are become landed proprietors in Cowal, and a suitable provision is also left for the other members of his family. His industry, simplicity of life, and strict attention to economy were remarkable—his integrity, charity, and unaffected piety truly exemplary. His tenants, by whom he was deservedly adored, requested permission to be exclusively the bearers of the corpse to the place of interment; but from the concourse assembled, from various quarters, upon this occasion, this arrangement was unavoidably broke in upon. At *Edmondston*, aged 84, Lawrence Brown, Esq.—At *Tandragree Castle*, Colin Campbell, Esq. a partner in the house of Campbell and O'Hara, of Kingston Jamaica.—At *Littletown*, of Ardersier, aged 95, Andrew Allan, Farmer, a truly worthy and honest man, of a cheerful and contented mind, remarkable for his regularity and early rising: and, until a few days before his death, was never known to be confined to bed by sickness, or by any other cause whatever.—At *Bath*, George Donaldson, Esq. Town Clerk of Haddington.—At *Onore*, Lient. Spottiswoode Lawson, 14 Madras, N. I. second son of the late William Lawson, Esq. of Cairnmuir.

—At *Berhampore*, William Grant, Esq. fourth son of the late Patrick Grant, Esq. of Glenmorriston, who from his truly pious character, was no less the subject of regret at his death, than of general esteem while he lived. He left Scotland at an early period of life, and was on the point of returning to his native country, when he fell a victim to a malignant fever. As a mark of his attachment to the religion, it had been the study of his life to practice, he has bequeathed to the different Societies, for the propagation of the Gospel among the natives of India, legacies to the amount of 5000*l*.—At *Edinburgh*, aged 86, Mrs. Janet Simpson, relict of Mr. John Patrello, merchant.—At *Kirkcaldy*, of Auchterless, aged 99, Mr. George Paterson.—At *Aberfeldie*, at the very advanced age of 111, John Stewart, commonly known by the name of Colonel John Stewart. The history of this man is not a little remarkable. At the age of 18 he joined the Pretender's banners, and was present at the battle of Sheriff Muir, near Stirling, as a young piper. In the year 1745, he again took up arms in support of the pretensions of the house of Stewart, and was present in the same capacity in the battles of Falkirk, Preston Pans, and Culloden, in which last he received a severe wound in the thigh, in consequence of which he was so lame, that he made use of crutches ever since. He had been eight times married, and by each of his wives, except the last, he had several children, and the number of his descendants now alive is supposed to exceed two hundred. By trade he was a tinker, and was famous for making highland dirks and snuff mulls. He retained to the last the full possession of his mental faculties, and walked to church

church, which is about a mile and a half from his house, the Sunday before his death. It is believed that his death was more owing to excess in drinking whiskey (of which he was immoderately fond) than to any natural decay.—At *Leith Links*, John Pattison, Esq. Town Clerk of Leith.—At *Greenock*, John Noble, Esq. of Leith-hall, Jamaica.

IRELAND.

The great annual fair at Ballinasloe commenced the 5th of October. Lord Clancarty, as usual, opened his park at Garhally the day before, to accommodate the proprietors of sheep; a greater number appeared than for many years.—On Tuesday, the 4th, 60,000 were sold in the park; and on Wednesday, the 5th, above 20,000 in the Fair-Green; making together 81,174: not a single sheep remained unsold, and the price was full 16 per cent. more than last year. There was a striking improvement both in the form and condition of those animals, owing to judicious crossing with new Leicester rams, which are in good demand, a sufficient supply not having appeared at the fair.—On Thursday, the horse fair was held: there were very few good ones, and these were soon bought up at high prices.—The bullock fair was on Friday; the improvement in their frame, particularly of the three years old, far surpassed all expectation; the price above last year is supposed to exceed 20 per cent.

The meeting of the Farming Society of Ireland was numerous and respectable, more than 300 members being present. The Society dined together on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The shew of breeding stock was far superior to that of any former year, and the encouragement held out by the Society in their last premiums to induce the most distinguished breeders to let out males, gratis, has benefitted the public in a degree far exceeding the expectations of the Society. Several of the finest long-horned bulls and draft stallions in Ireland were candidates for those premiums. The long-horned cattle still maintain their superiority: the shew of North Devons was highly respectable; several beautiful specimens appeared among them. There were one or two good Teeswater or Durham cows. The Hereford cattle have entirely disappeared. The Society inculcate in the strongest manner an attention to *milk* and *butter*, as well as to *beef*, in the selection of cows for breed. There never has been at any of the Society's shews so fine an exhibition of new Leicester sheep, and the top breeders pay more attention than formerly to the quantity and quality of their *wool*. The Southdown sheep appear likewise very much improved, and the competition among the breeders of them is more spirited than ever. The Society have purchased ten more tups to distribute through the mountainous districts. The committee have strongly recommended the importation of the Merino breed, which is supposed will answer extremely well in the temperate climate of Ireland. Many of the swine exhibited had superior merit; there has been a rapid improvement in this species of stock since the Farming Society was established, and immediate steps will be taken to disperse their improved breeds over every county in Ireland. Some very fine draft horses deserved the premiums for standing gratis in the four different provinces. The Suffolk punches are generally reckoned best adapted to the agriculture and land-carriage of Ireland. A very handsome black draft horse from Leicestershire was shewn for the province of Munster. After dinner on Wednesday, the Society's premiums for live stock were distributed. These were in all fifty-six; viz. twenty-nine for horned cattle, fifteen for sheep, five for horses, and seven for swine.

Married. At *Cork*, James Moore, Esq. of Maryborough, to Miss Elizabeth Swanton, second daughter of Wm. Swanton, Esq. of Ballydabab.—At *Craigbrien Castle* (the seat of his father) James Lysaght, Esq. of Riverstown, to Miss Stackpole, daughter of George Stackpole, Esq.

Lied. At *Dublin*, aged 63, James Trail, Esq. Under Secretary for the Civil Department to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant.—Thomas Morgell, Esq. barrister at law, son of the late Crosbie Morgell, Esq. of Mount Morgell, Lime-rick.—Robert Scott, Esq. Professor of Botany in Trinity-college, and an honorary Member of the Dublin Society.—In the Sheriff's prison, Mr. John Bloom-field;

field: a man whose general talents were the admiration of all who had an opportunity of knowing him, and whose pious resignation to the dispensations of Providence, during many years of adversity, proved him a true Christian. Although borne down by pecuniary embarrassment and domestic misfortune, he was a most lively and entertaining companion. He had the happiest knack of banishing unavailing and mortifying reflections, by frequent sallies of humour and an inexhaustible fund of anecdote. As an artist he was highly respectable; his memory was singularly retentive, and being stored with classical knowledge, and a close intimacy with the Muses, it is no wonder that his company was sought for, and that the magic of his conversation frequently made his auditors in his last abode forget that they were in prison.—At *Cork*, the Right Hon. Lady Anna Margaretta Fitzgerald, daughter of the late Earl of Kerry, and relict of Manrice Fitzgerald, Knight of Kerry, by whom she was left a widow in 1779. Her Ladyship's estates devolve on her nephew, Richard Boyle Townshend, Esq.—At *Mountrath*, aged 39, the Rev. Thady Duan, parish priest of that place, of whom it may be truly said that he was a worthy and devout clergyman. His premature call from this life is attributed by his relatives to a disease contracted on the night of the 12th of July last, when his residence was attacked in a tumultuous and riotous manner by a number of persons, who by their threatening and abusive language so terrified him that he sought safety in flight, whereby he got wet, and in consequence a severe cold, which terminated his existence.—At *Johnstown*, near Belfast, aged 82, Patrick Bride, Esq. one of the Directors of the Bank of Ireland.—At *Wexford*, William Allcock, Esq. an Alderman of Waterford and lately Mayor of that city. He was for many years an officer in his Majesty's troops of the line, and afterwards in the Militia. After fulfilling with credit the duties of a soldier, he retired to the tranquillity of a private life, and was eminently distinguished as a husband, a father, and a friend. Those with whom he was connected in each of these relations must ever deplore his loss, while the extensive circle of his acquaintance will long regret the deprivation of that engaging, that fascinating urbanity of manners, which gives to society its pleasure and its polish.—At *Ligard, Longford*, aged 88, Roger O'Farrel, Esq.—At *Mullingar*, George Jackson, Esq. of Glanbeg, Waterford.—At *Monaghan*, the Rev. Andrew Allen, Archdeacon of Clogher, and Vicar-General of that diocese.

FOREIGN OCCURRENCES.

Accounts have been received from Africa, dated August 20, by Mr. James G. Jackson, Professor of the Arabic and African languages, by a caravan, which performed the journey across the desert, or Sahara, from Tombuctoo to Morocco, in 105 days; by which it appears, that Mr. Parke's Interpreter to the Sultan of Soudon, arrived there with the caravan; but neither he nor any other person knew any thing certain of Mr. Parke's death. Four hundred load of Gum Soudon had arrived at Mogadore from that emporium of central Africa, besides a large quantity of gold dust, ivory, &c. The only circumstance that affords a colour of probability to the report of Mr. Parke's death, is, that some time since a fort on the river Niger had been stormed, and all the Christians found there put to death; but it is pretty well ascertained that Mr. Parke was not at that time in the neighbourhood of the Niger.

Died. At *Madeira*, Lord Claude Hamilton, 2d son of the Marquis of Abercorn.—At *Montreal*, 26th ult. Mr. Louis Lardy, aged 89: he was born in France, but of Scotch descent, and in all probability was the last survivor of all those who accompanied Prince Charles Stuart in his expedition against Scotland, whose colours he was obliged to forsake, after the battle of Culloden.—On the 29th, Joseph Lamothe, Esq. Captain of the Indian Department, in America.—At *Mount Hope*, near Bristol, aged 83, Hon. William Bradford, formerly Lieutenant-Governor, and various at periods speaker of the house

of representatives of Rhode Island, and one of its senators in the congress of the United States.—At his plantation, on Horse Creek, in Scriven County, Georgia, Mr. Michael Dougherty, aged 135, and was one of the first settlers of that state. The day before he died he walked two miles; the day on which he died he eat a hearty dinner, smoked his pipe, and in two hours afterwards expired.—At *Oakland*, Georgia, James Alger, Esq. Commissioner of Loans of the U. S. and a Justice of the Interior Court.—At *Charleston*, aged 76, Thomas Rivers, Esq. an old revolutionary patriot.—At *Alexandria*, Mrs. Mrs. Warren, of the Philadelphia Theatre, formerly Mrs. Merry, of Drury-lane. This distinguished actress, was the wife of Mr. Warren, one of the managers of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Theatres; and sister of the present countess of Craven. A correspondent of the *Baltimore American*, pays the following tribute to her memory:—"Could the writer so command his feelings upon the present melancholy occasion, as to enable him to enter into a detail of the excellencies of Mrs. Warren's theatrical character, it would be superfluous, her celebrity having diffused itself over both her native, and this her adopted country. In her the American stage has been deprived of its brightest ornament, not more conspicuous from her unrivalled excellence in her profession, than from her having uniformly preserved a spotless and unsullied fame; proving by her fair example that an unblemished reputation is by no means incompatible with a theatrical life. In the circle of her intimate friends her loss will be most poignantly felt, for to them the many virtues and accomplishments which adorned her private life were best known. To a warm, feeling, and affectionate heart, were added that fascinating ease and grace in conversation, which regulated by an excellent understanding, delighted, at the same time that it improved. But, alas! that eye is now dim and closed for ever, which has so often communicated its magic influence to the heart; and mute is that tongue whose flexible and silver tones so sympathetically vibrated upon the ear of an enraptured audience. And never could the observation of a celebrated moralist upon a similar occasion, be more applicable than upon the present: "Death has eclipsed the gaiety of nations, and diminished the public stock of harmless pleasure."

RETROSPECT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

The Central or Supreme Junta of Government in Spain assembled at Aranjuez, near Madrid, and on Sept. 25th was solemnly installed, and entered upon its functions, Count Florida Blanca being constituted President *ad interim*. Its authority has been acknowledged by the Royal Council of Castille, and the other councils, which are continued in their authority for the administration of justice and local jurisdiction. There seems no doubt of a general concurrence of the nation in this provisional government. Mr. Hookham Frere has been sent from this country as minister-plenipotentiary to the Junta,

The military operations in Spain have not been of much importance since our last report, and both parties seem rather preparing for future action, than actively engaged at present. Duhesme, who commands for the French in Catalonia, has exerted himself to retrieve the affairs of his countrymen in that province, and is said in the French papers to have given a defeat on Sept. 2d to a considerable body of Spaniards posted on the Lobregat, with the loss of their cannon and magazines; but no such event is acknowledged in the Spanish accounts.

On September 20th the Spaniards forced the French to abandon Bilbao, and occupied

occupied the city with a garrison; but before the end of the month, the French, under Marshal Ney, returned with about 12,000 men, and repossessed it without resistance, the Spaniards, on the intelligence of their approach, having withdrawn with all their stores and ammunition. It appears as if the Spanish Generals were concentrating their forces in that quarter with a view of enclosing the French in Bilbao. Although their general plan of conduct seems of the cautious kind, it is probable they will make use of their present superiority of numbers to strike some important blow before the arrival of fresh troops from France. Intelligence has been received of the arrival of Sir David Baird with his expedition off Corunna on the 16th instant; and it is said that General Moore, with 20,000 of the English in Portugal, is upon his march from that country into Spain.

The war in Finland has been suspended by an armistice between the Swedes and Russians, signed on Sept. 27th. After several severe actions, the Swedes had been compelled to retreat northwards, through the superiority of the Russians, who had been largely reinforced, and Finland is left in the present possession of the latter. The king of Sweden has been so much dissatisfied with the behaviour of his guards, that he has broken them, to the number of 4000, and has thus thrown disgrace upon many of the first families of the kingdom.

The blockade of the Russian squadron which took shelter in Port Baltic (Rogerswick) has been abandoned on account of the advanced season of the year. It was found that the use of fire-ships to destroy the vessels was precluded by the strong batteries which the Russian Admiral had erected to protect the mouth of the harbour.

The north of Europe has been thrown into a state of busy conjecture and expectation by an interview between the Emperors of France and Russia. They met at Erfurt on Sept. 27th; Alexander accompanied by his brother the grand-duke Constantine, and Napoleon by his brother Jerome. It cannot be doubted that this conference has been planned by Napoleon, in order to reinforce and extend his influence over the mind of the Russian sovereign—an influence known to be highly disagreeable to the subjects of the latter. The projects that have been discussed between these mighty potentates cannot be yet known to the world; but one result of their consultations has appeared to be an attempt at negotiating a peace. A flag of truce lately arrived off Deal, bringing a Russian and a French officer. The Russian was allowed to proceed to London, while the Frenchman was detained on board ship. The dispatches were carried to Mr. Canning's office, and their bearer was speedily sent back to Deal. He was followed by an English messenger, carrying the reply of this court, which was probably unfavourable, as the flag of truce was ordered immediately to depart. The greatest secrecy has been observed on the occasion, and the public is left to mere conjecture respecting the proposals; but it is obvious that nothing less than the absolute relinquishment of Spain by the French can be accepted by England as a preliminary, which Napoleon can scarcely at present be prepared to concede. The prospect of peace, therefore, seems as remote as ever.

From an official account of the action between the Seahorse frigate and the Turkish vessels, it appears, that on July 5th the Captain descried, coming round the

the island of Scopolo, a Turkish ship of 52 guns, a corvette of 24 guns, and a galley. After some manœuvres; he took the opportunity of first engaging the corvette, which he reduced to a wreck, and it probably afterwards went to the bottom. He then came to close action with the large vessel, which, after an obstinate resistance, he compelled to strike, with the loss of 360 men killed and wounded, while that of the Seahorse was only five killed and ten wounded. The galley sheered off at the beginning.

In America, the town of Boston on August 9th voted an address to the President of the United States, praying for a suspension of the embargo. It was conceived in moderate and respectful terms. An answer was returned by the President, importing that as no change had taken place in the edicts of the belligerent powers which occasioned the embargo, he could not think himself authorised to suspend it; and that it will be for the legislature alone, when it meets, to prescribe the course to be pursued. It is understood that the influence of the existing administration will be employed to continue the embargo, which, in the meantime, is becoming more and more unpopular in America, by its preventing a participation in the advantages of the trade opened to the Spanish and Portuguese settlements.

The Convention of Cintra continues to be a subject of much discussion and controversy; and from the return of Sir Arthur Wellesley and Sir Hew Dalrymple, it is concluded that their respective shares of merit or demerit will undergo immediate investigation. In the meantime the cities of London and Westminster, with some other towns, have thought it right to urge effectual enquiry by addresses to his Majesty. The address of London called forth a royal answer, which has been understood as a kind of reprimand for an unnecessary interference. The advisers of this answer, however, do not seem to have calculated upon its probable effects; for it has produced a meeting of the Court of Common Council, at which, by a great majority, a string of Resolutions was carried, warmly expressive of dissatisfaction, and reverting to former events in a manner that cannot but prove unwelcome at Court.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

The homeward-bound Jamaica fleet, consisting of about seventeen sail, under convoy of his Majesty's brig of war Hunter, have arrived in safety in the River; that part of the convoy which was bound for Liverpool and Bristol reached their respective ports on the 12th inst.

We announce also with considerable satisfaction the arrival of a very large fleet of merchantmen from Stockholm and Gottenburgh; the whole convoy consisted of nearly 100 sail, several of which are from Revel and other of the Russian ports, freighted with the produce of that country. Insurances to a very large amount had been effected at Lloyd's upon this valuable fleet; and both merchants and underwriters are fortunate in the safe arrival of so large a convoy at this critical season of the year.

We learn with much pleasure that a wide and extensive market is soon likely to be opened in Spain for certain manufactures of this country, which were formerly altogether prohibited, even in times of our most friendly intercourse with that country. We allude in particular to Manchester goods and Birmingham manufactures of all kinds. To all of these articles, as well as to those of every other

other branch of our domestic industry, we now anticipate a welcome reception in the ports of Spain, the Junta of Seville having not long since issued a decree permitting the importation of *all* British goods into the port of Cadiz, upon payment of 15 per cent. duty *ad valorem*. This order, however, related to Cadiz only, the Junta of Seville having, of course, no authority beyond the limits of its own province; but we have little doubt, from the great cordiality which now happily subsists between the two countries, that a general decree to the same effect will shortly be issued by the Supreme Government.

Happily for the commercial interests of this country, the good effects upon our trade, arising from the recent change of political affairs in Europe, extend themselves far beyond this quarter of the globe. An intercourse of the most beneficial kind has already been opened between several of our West India islands and the neighbouring Spanish colonies of Cuba and the Main. Purchases to a considerable extent have already been made there in dry goods for Vera Cruz, Carthagena, and the Caraccas; and such has been the influx of Spanish traders to the port of Kingston, in Jamaica, alone, that the market has been nearly drained of all its old stock. In consequence of this happy change in the affairs of our new and gallant allies, consignments of various kinds of goods to a considerable extent have been lately made by some of our mercantile houses to the islands of Jamaica, Tortola, &c. No less than three running ships have lately sailed from Trinidad, freighted with goods of all sorts. The demand for the Spanish colonies principally consists in printed cottons, coloured velvets, British muslins, hats, &c.

Our great manufacturing towns of Leeds, Nottingham, Birmingham, and Sheffield, are all in full activity; Manchester, in particular, presents a very altered appearance from that which it so lately wore. Tumult and discontent have given way to industry and peace; the mechanic now receives a fair reward for his labours, while the manufacturer enjoys the prospect of a ready sale for his goods.

Our trade to the Brazils continues with increased activity. We understand that Ministers have lately determined upon the following arrangement, which will naturally produce a good effect upon our commerce with that country: All goods imported into this kingdom, either in British ships or the ships of countries in amity with us, are to have the bondage and warehousing act extended to them (provided such goods are the growth, produce, and manufacture of such colonies and countries in amity) without being made liable to the export duty under the Order in Council Act. In consequence of this arrangement, the produce of the Brazils will be received in this country by a direct communication, without the intervention of the port of Lisbon, as was formerly the case; hence unnecessary delay will be avoided, and, what is still more material, all such produce will come to this country, without being loaded with the additional expence of extra shipping charges, duties of export, &c.

COFFEE.—A complete revolution has taken place in regard to that important article in domestic economy, Coffee. In former years the cultivation of this description of produce was confined to our enemy's colonies, and its consumption here was consequently burdened with heavy duties. Of late years, however, the cultivation of coffee has been so much extended in our own islands, that it has become completely an article of British produce; and the West India planters succeeded last session in obtaining such a remission of the duty, that good coffee may now be had in the shops at 2s. a pound. The law in regard to the roasting of coffee not being generally known, it is proper to apprise the public that private families are completely at liberty to roast their own coffee, and that the grocers only are prohibited. The grocers, however, are much oftener asked for coffee roasted than unroasted, and are of course obliged to get large quantities roasted by the Excise. The remission of duty took place on the 11th ult. and a great run on coffee was the consequence. So strong was the belief that tea would continue to have universal preference, that no preparations were made at the Excise to meet this increased demand; the public roasting offices proved quite insufficient; the chocolate-makers have been allowed to lend their aid; but this still proving inadequate, it is likely that the permission

permission of roasting will be extended to the grocers. We expect that coffee as a breakfast will come into general use throughout the kingdom, and we shall congratulate the country upon it, as the prosperity of our trade and manufactures is much more interested in promoting an intimate connexion with our fellow subjects in the West Indies than with a distant and detached country like China.

At the market held at Canterbury on the 8th inst. good hops were in great demand, and much business was transacted in the way of fine samples; ordinary sorts went off very flatly—say, bags from 70s. to 84s.; pockets, 80s. to 90s. per cwt.

The following quantities were weighed in the same week in the markets of Worcester and Stourport: In the former, 4,590 pockets of new and 89 pockets of old hops; current prices from 68s. to 76s.; prime lots 80s. per cwt. In the latter, 699 pockets; current prices from 75s. to 80s. per cwt.

The outward-bound West India fleet, which was expected to have sailed on the 10th inst. under convoy of the Sparrow sloop of war, is delayed for some time, by order of Vice Admiral Whitshed, to afford the trade bound thither, which are detained by contrary winds at the several ports, an opportunity of joining. West Indiamen from London are getting ready with all possible dispatch to join convoy at Portsmouth. They will sail in the course of the present month. The East India ships for the Christmas convoy are also getting ready with considerable expedition.

The Imperial overture for peace produced little or no sensation in the mercantile world. Stocks are higher than they were a month ago, but the Omnium still continues a losing concern, in consequence, apparently, of the doubtful disposition of Austria.

PRICE OF STOCKS.

Bank Stock	- - - - -	236
India Stock	- - - - -	180½ 80
3 per Cent. reduced	- - - - -	66½ 1
3 per Cent. Cons.	- - - - -	66½ 7½ 6½
4 per Cent. Cons.	- - - - -	81½ 1
5 per Cent. Ann.	- - - - -	99½ 1½
Bank Long Annuities	- - - - -	18½ 1 5-16
Omnium	- - - - -	1½ 1 d.
Exchequer Bills	- - - - -	5 8 p.
Consols for Ac.	- - - - -	67 67½ 1½ 1

The Average Prices of Navigable Canal Shares, Dock Stock, Fire Office Shares, &c. in Oct. 1808; at the Office of Mr. Scott, 28, New Bridge-street, London.

Leeds and Liverpool, 132l. per share, dividing 8l. per cent. per ann. nett.—Grand Junction, 127l. to 128l. each; the last half-yearly dividend was 2l. nett.—Monmouth, 100l.—Kennet and Avon, 20l.; shares 3l. to 3l. 10s. premium.—Huddersfield, 19l. each.—Basingstoke, 21l.—Scotch Mines, 127l. to 130l. per cent.—Tavistock Mineral Canal, at par.—West India Dock Stock, 160l. to 161l. 10s. per cent. dividing 10l. per cent. nett.—London Dock, at 117l. per cent., dividing 5l. per cent.—East India Dock, 125l. per cent.—Commercial ditto, 127l. Globe Insurance, 114l.—Provident Institution, par to 10s. discount.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER.

Wheat sowing finished in all forward districts, and the seed perfectly well got in; quantity sown most extensive. The opinion given on the late crop generally confirmed over the whole island and in Ireland—larger in bulk than the last year's crop, but thinner and lighter. The mildew prevailed partially throughout, but there is much fine and highly-conditioned wheat. The oat crop very large in bulk, but supposed in the fens to be generally 4 lb. per bushel lighter than last season.

Turnips as random a crop as ever known; in some parts equal to the crops of the most favourable years, in others equally bad; the whole beneath an average crop. Cole, &c. for spring feed, very promising; and the young clovers a very luxuriant plant; but clover seed a general bad crop, and the article likely to be very dear.

The country markets very amply supplied with both fat and lean cattle of all descriptions, and the prices as yet high.

Killing at the Victualling Office in London lately commenced—about 400 bullocks and the same number of hogs weekly.

Smithfield. Beef, 4s. to 5s. Mutton, 5s. to 6s. Veal, 5s. to 7s. House Lamb, 61s. Pork, 5s. to 6s. 4d. Bacon, 6s. 8d. to 6s. 10d. Irish do. 5s. 6d. to 5s. 8d. Fat, 5s. 8d. to 6s. Skins 25s. to 35s.

FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.

The weather during the course of the preceding month has been upon the whole favourable to the sowing of wheat, both on fallows and clover leys, which are in most forward districts nearly, if not quite finished; and the early-sown grain comes up well, with an healthy blade. The potatoe crops have turned out good, and nearly all taken up; and those lands, with bean and pea etches, are in a state of great forwardness for wheat.

From the mildness of the season the outlying stock still do well in their pastures; but it will be advisable for farmers, when the nights become cold and damp (which they may now soon be expected to be) to bring their store cattle in the evenings into their yards, as a beast reduced in his flesh at the commencement of winter suffers much, is long in the spring before he recovers his hard treatment, and, if a young one, considerably retards his growth—proving there is no economy whatever in cold, bad, and low keeping.

The turnip crops have in general much improved lately. Feeding sheep and the early West Country ewes and lambs are doing well. In the fens the cole-seed are equally flourishing, and are well and fully stocked. Little variations have been experienced in the prices of lean stock at the late fairs, where sheep and lambs have been shewn in great abundance, at somewhat lower prices than last year. From the continuance of the embarkation of troops and cavalry for foreign service, flour and hay, oats, &c. are still on the advance. The country corn markets are but thinly supplied with grain, the labourers being engaged in preparing seed and sowing, which, when finished, they will go into the barns, and a plentiful supply of corn may be expected.

PRICE

PRICE OF GRAIN:

ENGLAND AND WALES.

SCOTLAND.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Wheat	85	5		79	3
Rye	53	10		54	6
Barley	42	3		38	0
Oats	32	6		33	3
Beans	63	7		59	8
Pease	66	0		61	4
Oatmeal	50	11		29	3
Bigg	—	—		32	7

ERRATA.

p. 402. l. 13 from the bottom, for *ancient word*, read *ancient record*.